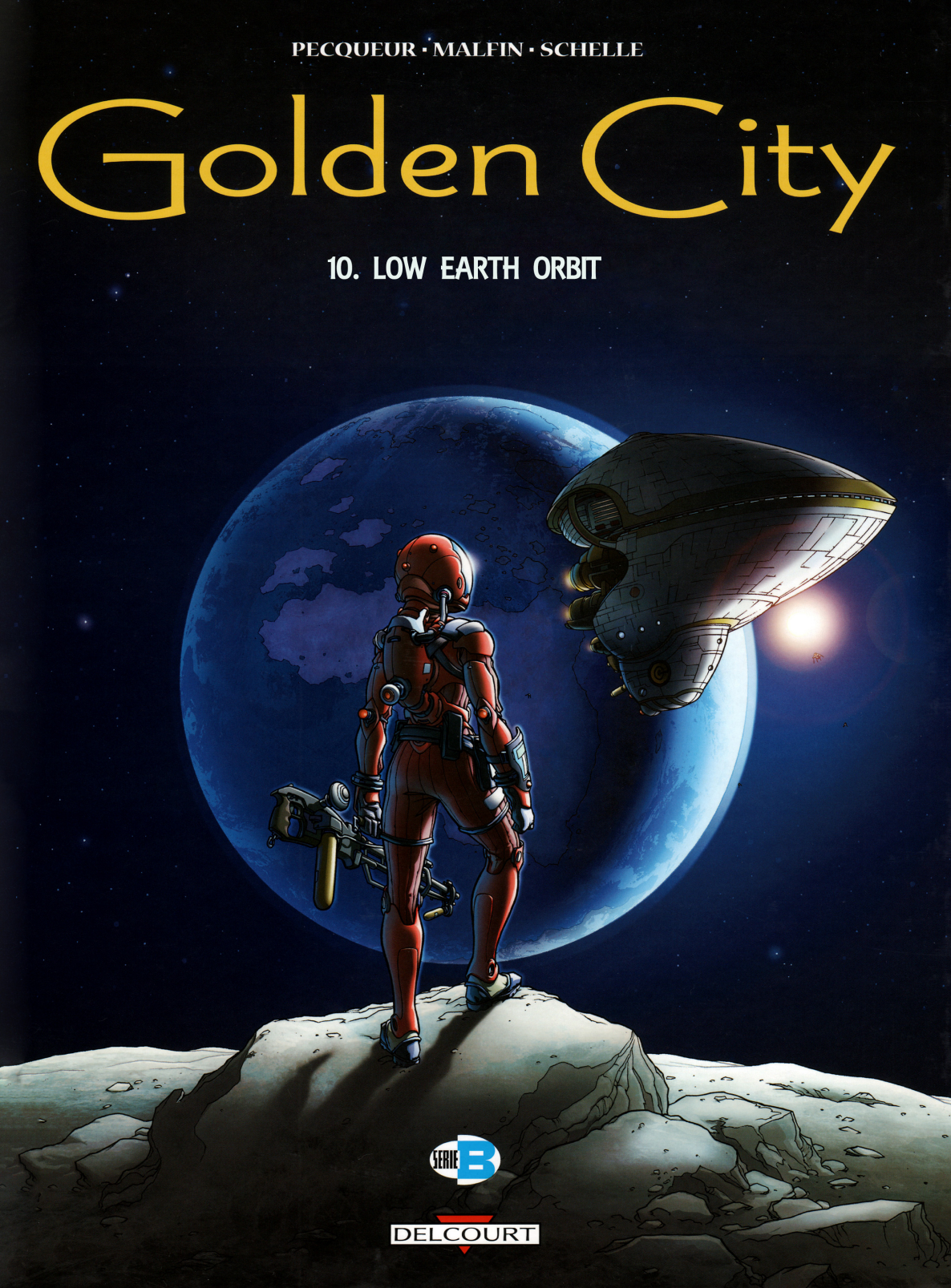
PECQUEUR · MALFIN · SCHELLE

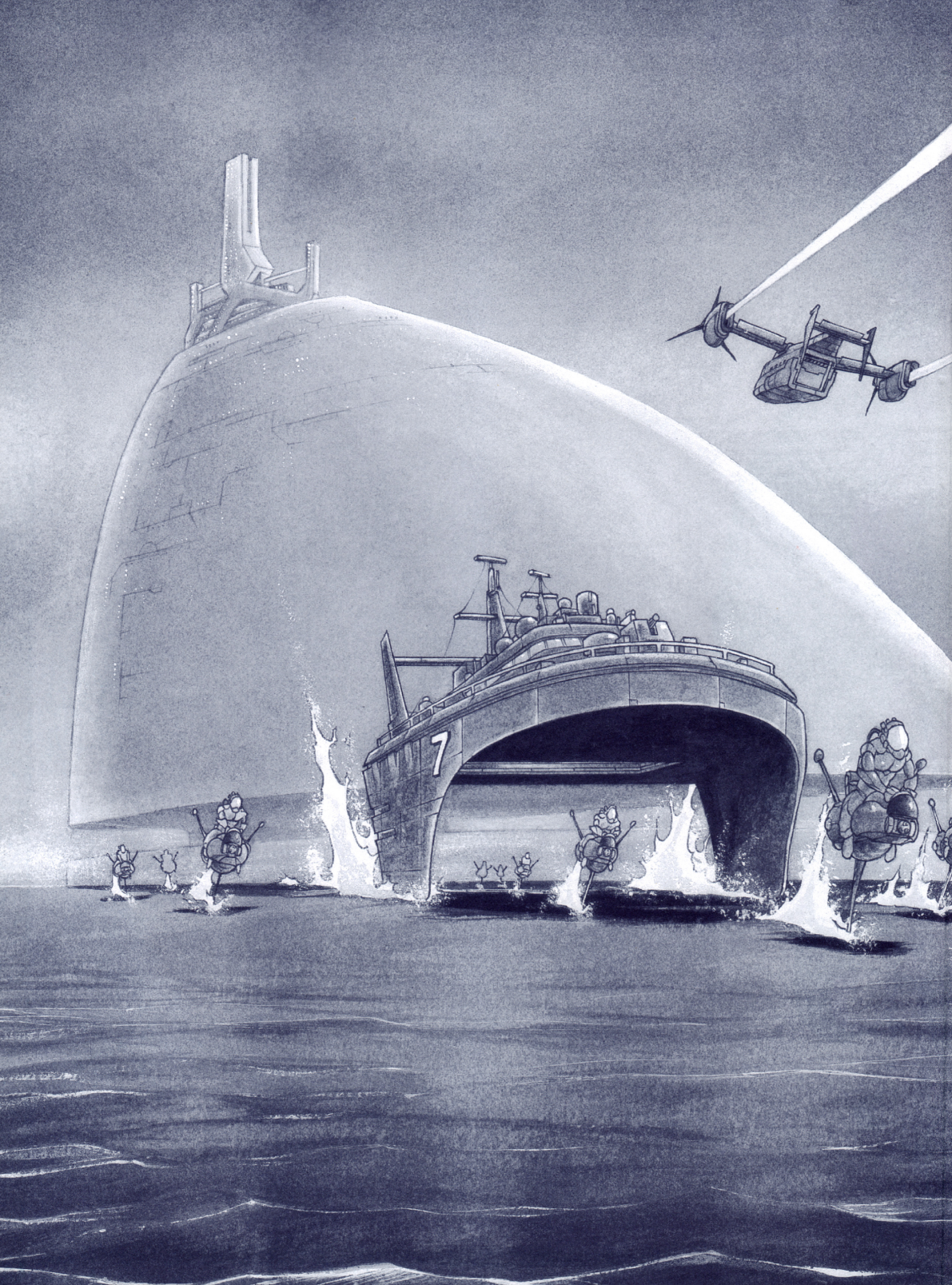
Golden City

10. LOW EARTH ORBIT



SERIE B

DELCOURT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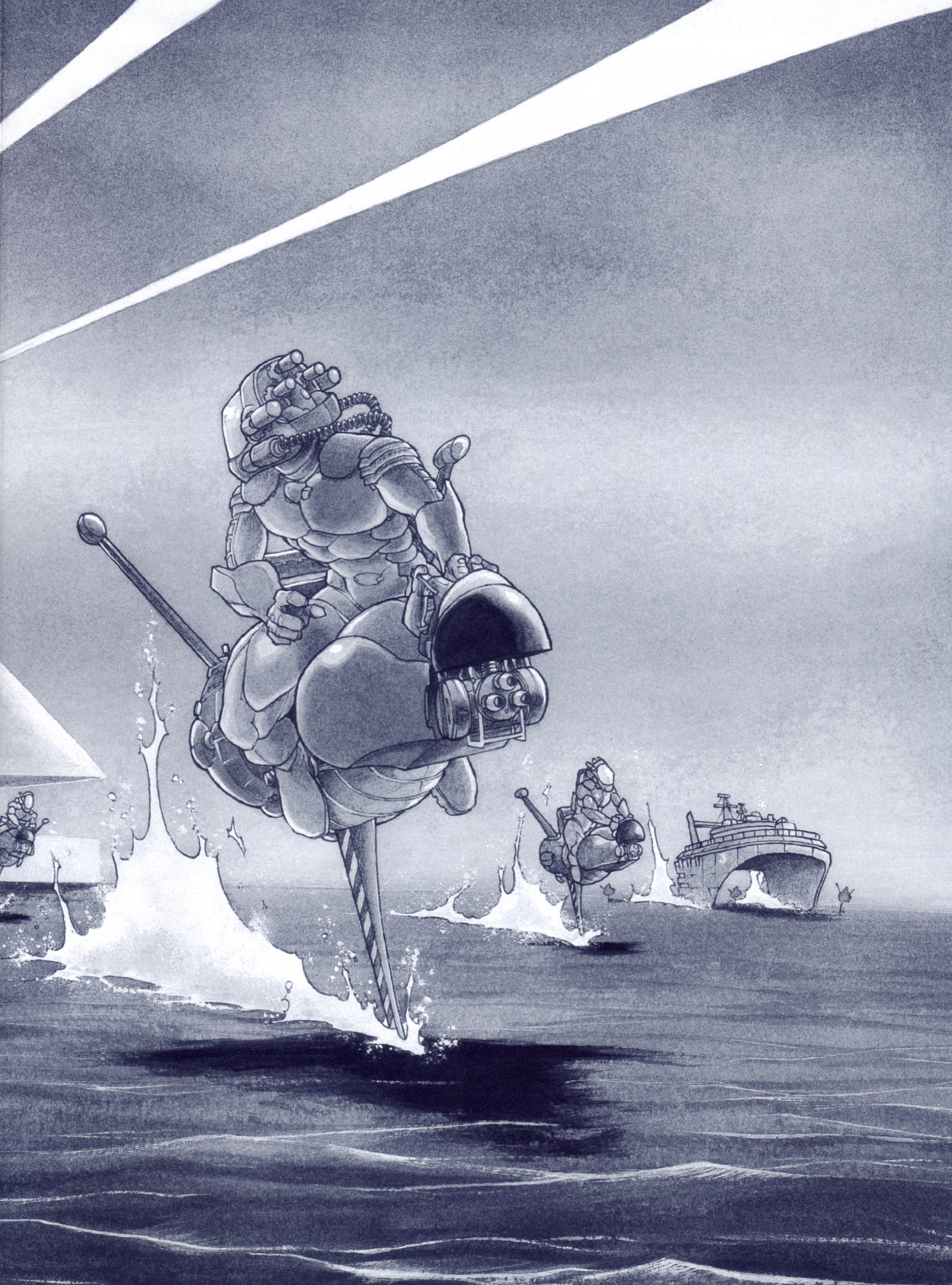


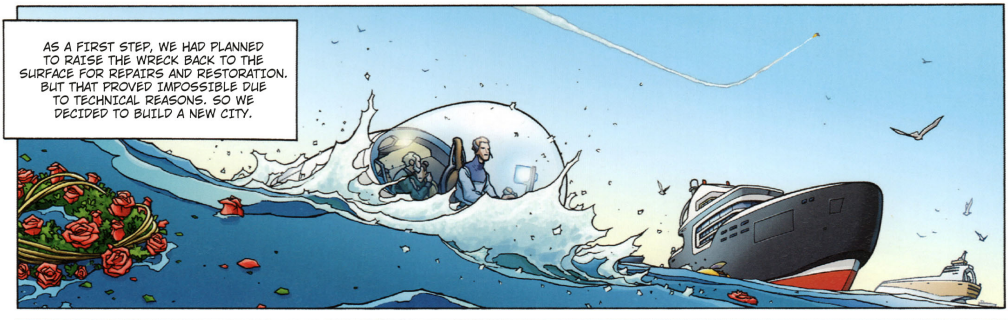
Golden City

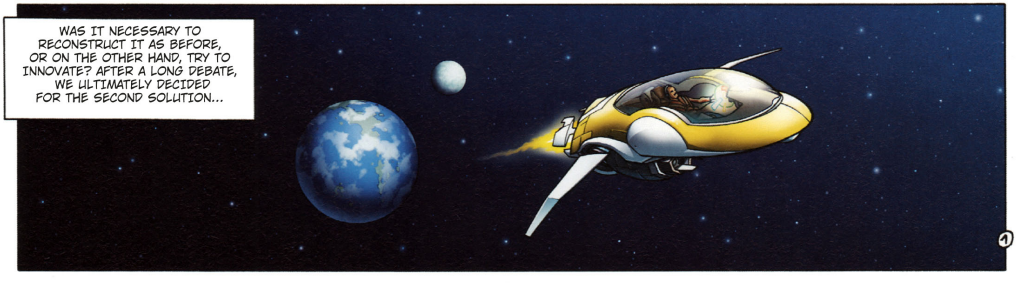
10. LOW EARTH ORBIT

Story
Daniel PECQUEUR
Art
Nicolas MALFIN
Colors
Pierre SCHELLE
Translation
Sosich

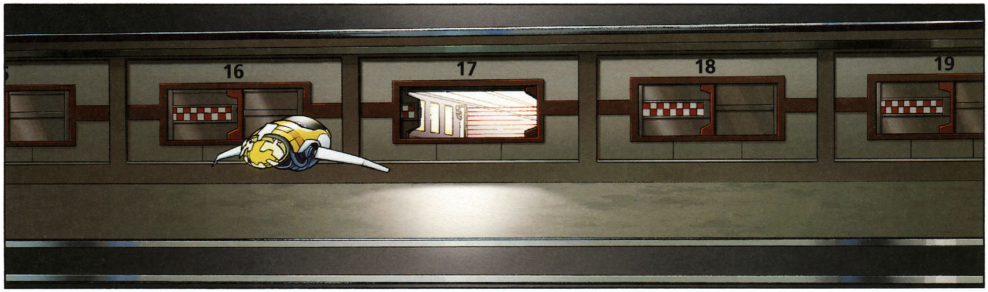
DELCOURT

FIVE YEARS AGO, GOLDEN CITY WAS HIT BY A WIRE-GUIDED TORPEDO AND SANK WITH EVERYTHING ON IT. SINCE THEN, THE WRECK BECAME A SUBMERGED SANCTUARY WHERE FAMILIES OF MANY VICTIMS COME TO GATHER REGULARLY.


AS A FIRST STEP, WE HAD PLANNED TO RAISE THE WRECK BACK TO THE SURFACE FOR REPAIRS AND RESTORATION. BUT THAT PROVED IMPOSSIBLE DUE TO TECHNICAL REASONS. SO WE DECIDED TO BUILD A NEW CITY.


WAS IT NECESSARY TO RECONSTRUCT IT AS BEFORE, OR ON THE OTHER HAND, TRY TO INNOVATE? AFTER A LONG DEBATE, WE ULTIMATELY DECIDED FOR THE SECOND SOLUTION...

...AND TODAY, AS THE CURRENT MAYOR, I'M HAPPY TO INAUGURATE THE NEW GOLDEN CITY. FIRST HUMAN CITY IN SPACE!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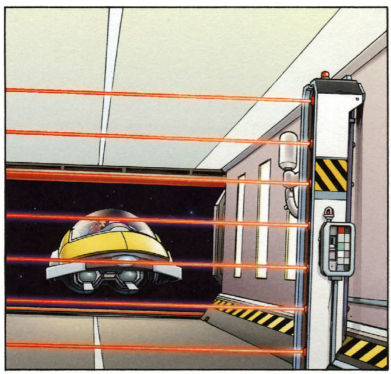
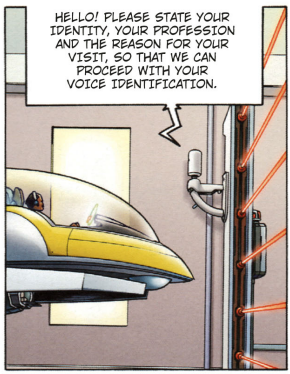
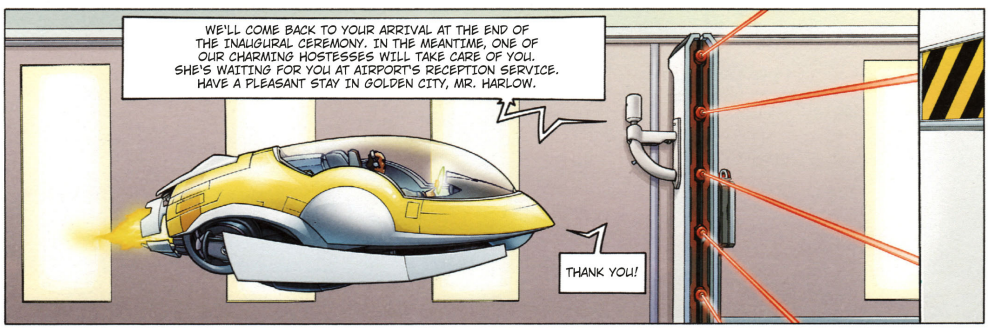
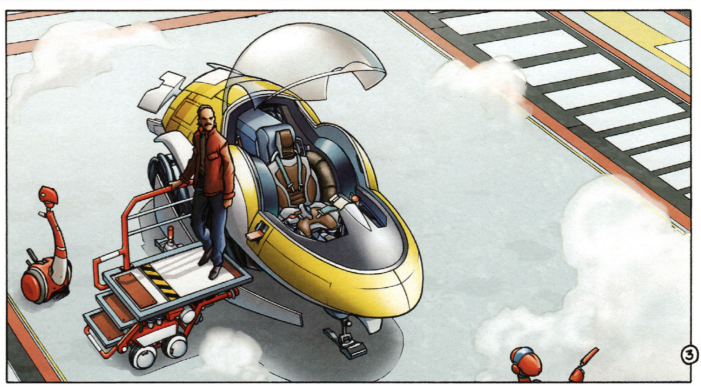



HELLO! PLEASE STATE YOUR IDENTITY, YOUR PROFESSION AND THE REASON FOR YOUR VISIT, SO THAT WE CAN PROCEED WITH YOUR VOICE IDENTIFICATION.

WARREN HARLOW, PRIVATE DETECTIVE. I'M HERE TO TALK WITH THE DIRECTORS OF BANKS GROUP. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT.
SPEECH RECOGNITION FINISHED! THE PEOPLE YOU WANT TO MEET ARE CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE BECAUSE THEY ARE ATTENDING THE MAYOR'S INAUGURATION SPEECH.


WE'LL COME BACK TO YOUR ARRIVAL AT THE END OF THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY. IN THE MEANTIME, ONE OF OUR CHARMING HOSTESSES WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU. SHE'S WAITING FOR YOU AT AIRPORT'S RECEPTION SERVICE. HAVE A PLEASANT STAY IN GOLDEN CITY, MR. HARLOW.
THANK YOU!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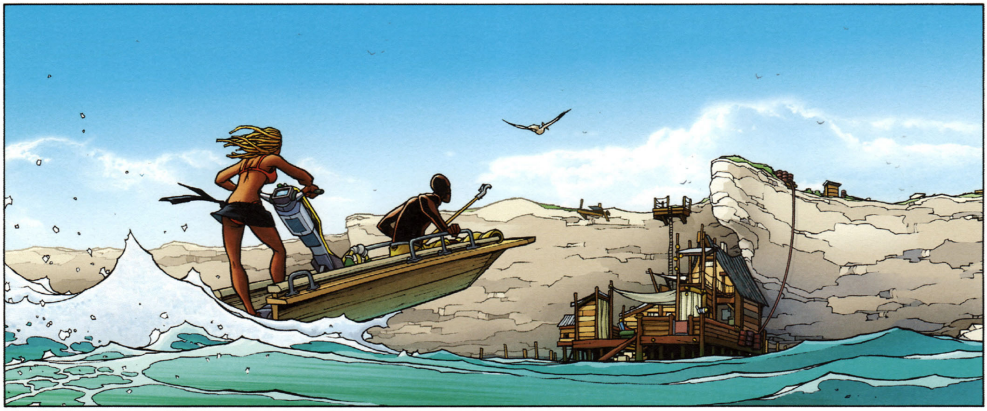
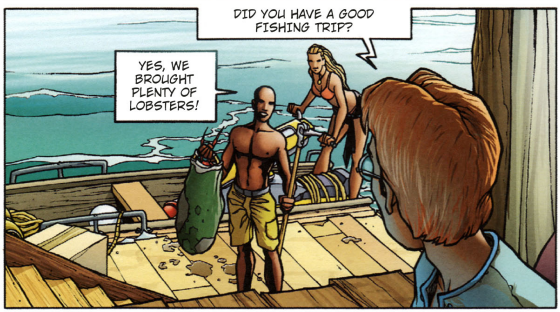
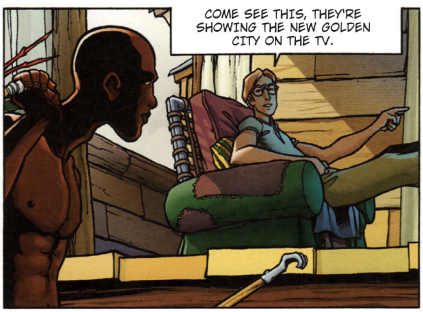
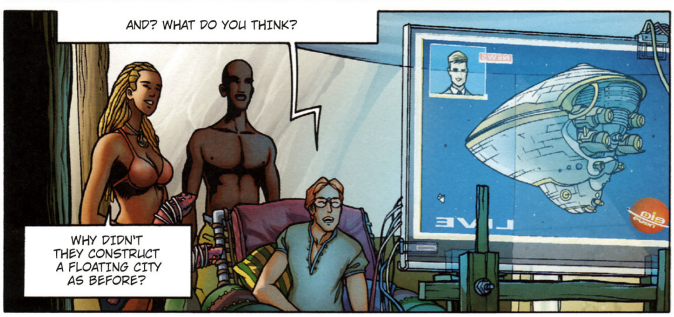


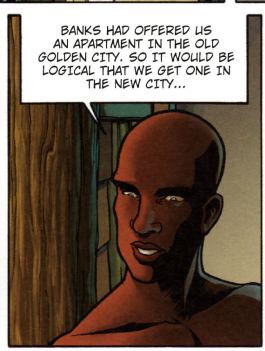

DID YOU HAVE A GOOD FISHING TRIP?
YES, WE BROUGHT PLENTY OF LOBSTERS!

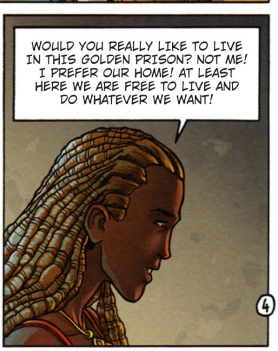

COME SEE THIS, THEY'RE SHOWING THE NEW GOLDEN CITY ON THE TV.

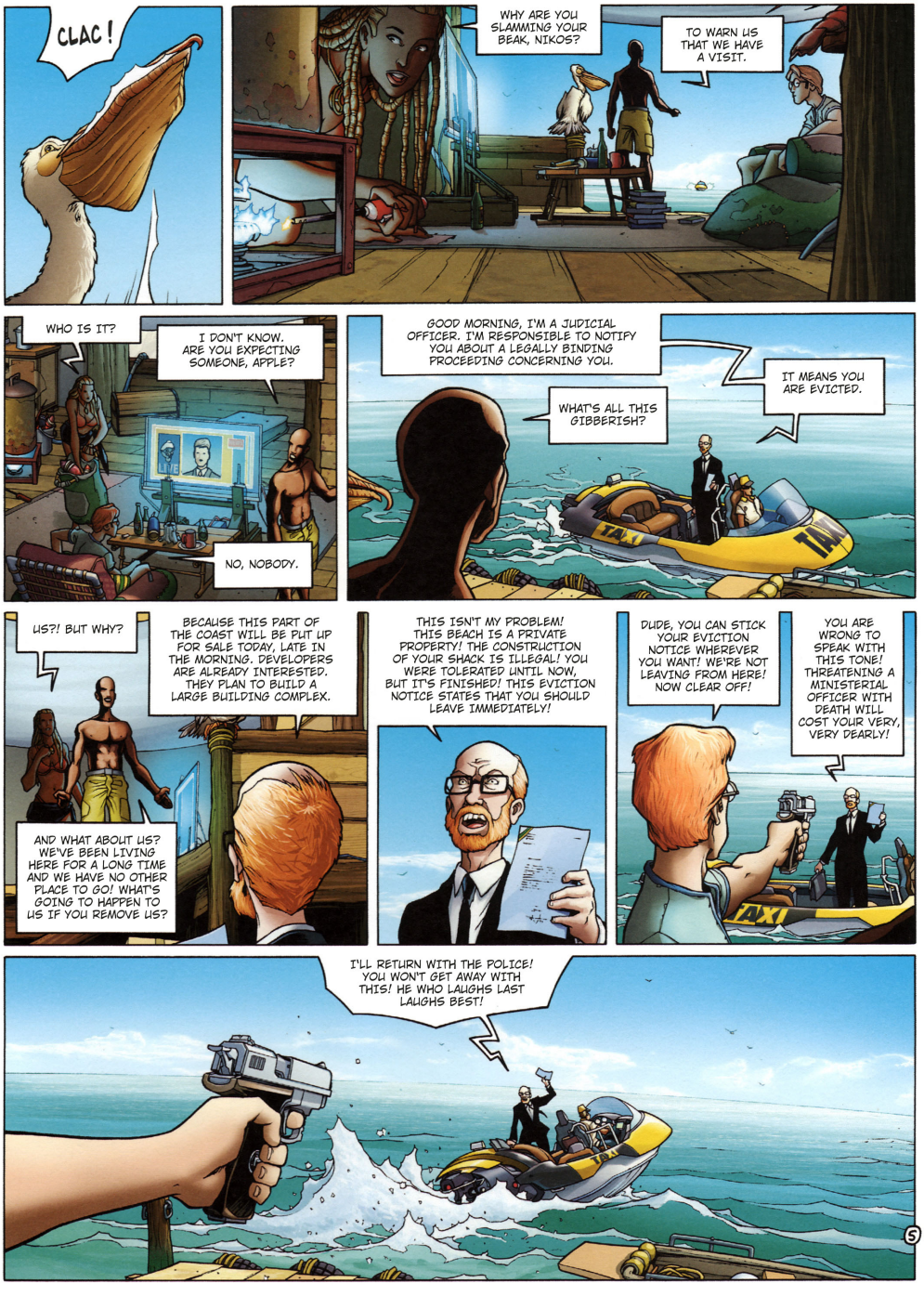

AND? WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WHY DIDN'T THEY CONSTRUCT A FLOATING CITY AS BEFORE?

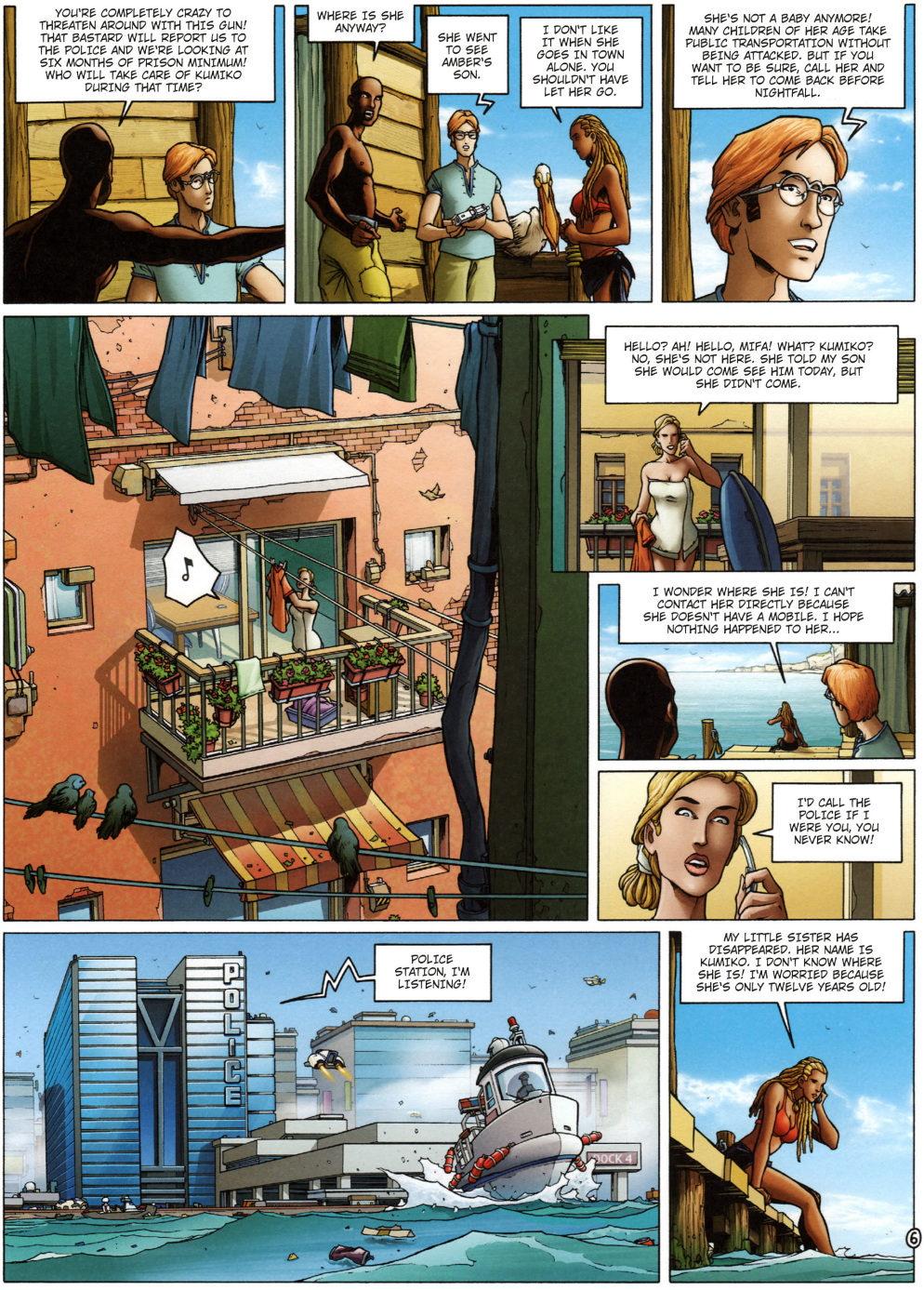
FOR SECURITY REASONS. IT'S VERY UNLIKELY THEY WILL GET ATTACKED BY TERRORISTS IN SPACE. AND EVEN IF IT HAPPENED, THEY COULD DEFEND THEMSELVES. THE CITY IS PROTECTED BY SATELLITES ARMED WITH MISSILES.

IT MUST BE NICE TO LIVE IN SPACE! I'D LOVE IT IF THEY GIVE US AN APARTMENT! ANYWAY, THAT WOULD BE NORMAL!
WHY?


BANKS HAD OFFERED US AN APARTMENT IN THE OLD GOLDEN CITY. SO IT WOULD BE LOGICAL THAT WE GET ONE IN THE NEW CITY...

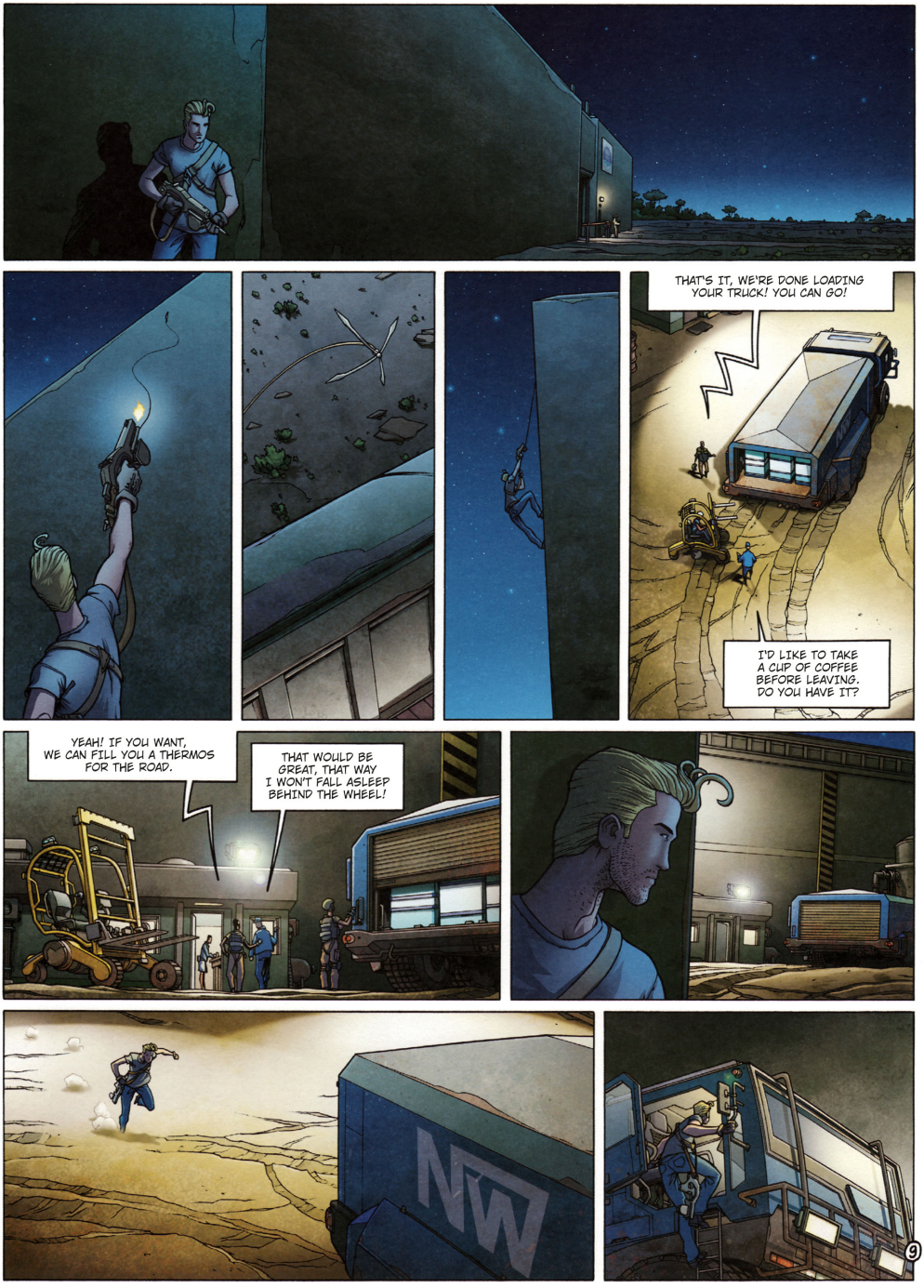

WOULD YOU REALLY LIKE TO LIVE IN THIS GOLDEN PRISON? NOT ME! I PREFER OUR HOME! AT LEAST HERE WE ARE FREE TO LIVE AND DO WHATEVER WE WANT!
4


CLAC!
WHY ARE YOU SLAMMING YOUR BEAK, NIKOS?
TO WARN US THAT WE HAVE A VISIT.
WHO IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW. ARE YOU EXPECTING SOMEONE, APPLE?
NO, NOBODY.
GOOD MORNING, I'M A JUDICIAL OFFICER. I'M RESPONSIBLE TO NOTIFY YOU ABOUT A LEGALLY BINDING PROCEEDING CONCERNING YOU.
WHAT'S ALL THIS GIBBERISH?
IT MEANS YOU ARE EVICTED.
TAXI
US?! BUT WHY?
BECAUSE THIS PART OF THE COAST WILL BE PUT UP FOR SALE TODAY, LATE IN THE MORNING. DEVELOPERS ARE ALREADY INTERESTED. THEY PLAN TO BUILD A LARGE BUILDING COMPLEX.
AND WHAT ABOUT US? WE'VE BEEN LIVING HERE FOR A LONG TIME AND WE HAVE NO OTHER PLACE TO GO! WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US IF YOU REMOVE US?
THIS ISN'T MY PROBLEM! THIS BEACH IS A PRIVATE PROPERTY! THE CONSTRUCTION OF YOUR SHACK IS ILLEGAL! YOU WERE TOLERATED UNTIL NOW, BUT IT'S FINISHED! THIS EVICTION NOTICE STATES THAT YOU SHOULD LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!
DUDE, YOU CAN STICK YOUR EVICTION NOTICE WHEREVER YOU WANT! WE'RE NOT LEAVING FROM HERE! NOW CLEAR OFF!
YOU ARE WRONG TO SPEAK WITH THIS TONE! THREATENING A MINISTERIAL OFFICER WITH DEATH WILL COST YOUR VERY, VERY DEARLY!
TAXI
I'LL RETURN WITH THE POLICE! YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS! HE WHO LAUGHS LAST LAUGHS BEST!
TAXI
5

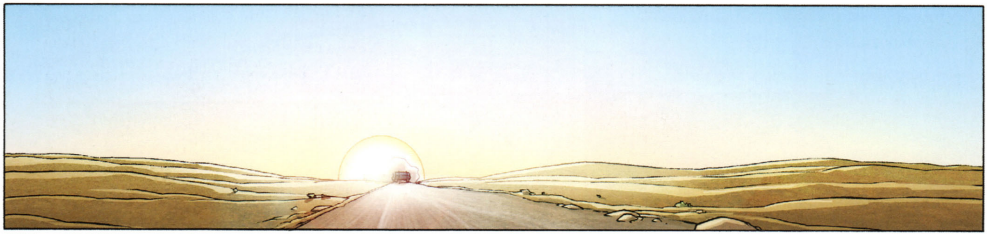

YOU'RE COMPLETELY CRAZY TO THREATEN AROUND WITH THIS GUN! THAT BASTARD WILL REPORT US TO THE POLICE AND WE'RE LOOKING AT SIX MONTHS OF PRISON MINIMUM! WHO WILL TAKE CARE OF KUMIKO DURING THAT TIME?
WHERE IS SHE ANYWAY?
SHE WENT TO SEE AMBER'S SON.
I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN SHE GOES IN TOWN ALONE. YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HER GO.
SHE'S NOT A BABY ANYMORE! MANY CHILDREN OF HER AGE TAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION WITHOUT BEING ATTACKED. BUT IF YOU WANT TO BE SURE, CALL HER AND TELL HER TO COME BACK BEFORE NIGHTFALL.
HELLO? AH! HELLO, MIFA! WHAT? KUMIKO? NO, SHE'S NOT HERE. SHE TOLD MY SON SHE WOULD COME SEE HIM TODAY, BUT SHE DIDN'T COME.
I WONDER WHERE SHE IS! I CAN'T CONTACT HER DIRECTLY BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T HAVE A MOBILE. I HOPE NOTHING HAPPENED TO HER...
I'D CALL THE POLICE IF I WERE YOU, YOU NEVER KNOW!
POLICE
POLICE STATION, I'M LISTENING!
DOCK 4
MY LITTLE SISTER HAS DISAPPEARED. HER NAME IS KUMIKO. I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS! I'M WORRIED BECAUSE SHE'S ONLY TWELVE YEARS OLD!
6

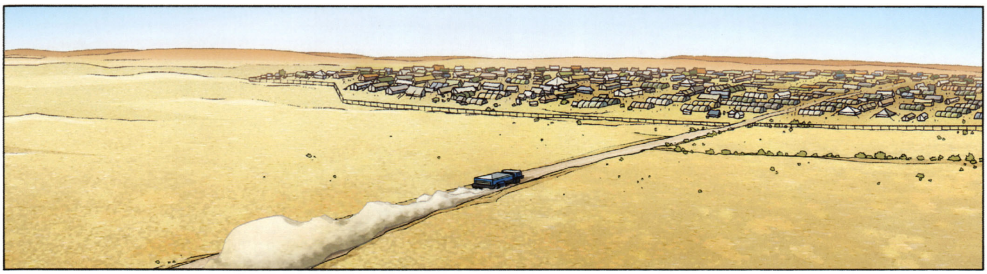
IT'S THE AGE AT WHICH KIDS BECOME RUNAWAYS. IF THIS IS THE CASE, SHE CHOSE HER DAY BADLY BECAUSE A RIOT HAS STARTED IN THE CITY...
...THE DEMONSTRATION ORGANIZED BY THE UNIONS AGAINST SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND UNEMPLOYMENT ESCALATED AS SOON AS THE PROTESTORS SAW THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW GOLDEN CITY ON THE TELEVISION SCREENS. LIKE ADDING FUEL TO THE FIRE...
RICH BASTARDS! FINANCE HOOLIGANS! DEATH!
...AND THE UNREST IS RAPIDLY SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE CITY CENTER, BECAUSE YOUNG PEOPLE FROM DISADVANTAGED DISTRICTS JOINED THE PROCESSION OF PROTESTORS...
...MANY OF THEM ARE ARMED AND RIOT SQUADS HAVE BEEN SENT ON THE SPOT.
THERE'S FIGHTING IN THE CITY! WE NEED TO FIND KUMIKO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
NIKOS, WE NEED YOU TO GO LOOK FOR KUMIKO.
I'LL BE IN PERMANENT CONNECTION WITH YOU THANKS TO THIS CAMERA. I'LL RECEIVE IMAGES ON MY COMPUTER. DO YOU UNDERSTAND? GOOD, THIS IS WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO...

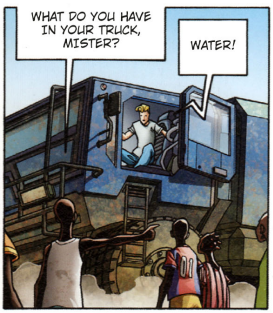
I'VE NOTIFIED THE OFFICIALS OF BANKS GROUP THAT YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO THEM, MR. HARLOW...
...FOLLOW ME, THEY ARE WAITING IN THE MEETING ROOM.
HELLO, MY DEAR HARLOW, COME IN!
WHAT'S THE STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION WE ENTRUSTED YOU?
IT'S FINISHED! I ASKED TO SEE YOU BECAUSE I HAVE GOOD NEWS TO ANNOUNCE: BANKS IS ALIVE! AFTER LONG MONTHS OF SEARCH, I FINALLY ENDED UP DISCOVERING HIS WHEREABOUTS, AS YOU HAD REQUESTED.
WHERE IS HE?
EVERYWHERE AND NOWHERE.
EXCUSE ME?
HE NEVER STAYS AT THE SAME LOCATION FOR VERY LONG. HE MOVES CONSTANTLY. THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS WHY IT TOOK SO MUCH TIME TO FIND HIM. HE'S CURRENTLY IN NIGERIA.
WHAT IS HE DOING THERE?
HUMANITARIAN ACTIONS, IN HIS OWN WAY...
Nestlé Waters
PRIVATE PROPERTY ACCESS LIMITED
08


THAT'S IT, WE'RE DONE LOADING YOUR TRUCK! YOU CAN GO!
I'D LIKE TO TAKE A CUP OF COFFEE BEFORE LEAVING. DO YOU HAVE IT?
YEAH! IF YOU WANT, WE CAN FILL YOU A THERMOS FOR THE ROAD.
THAT WOULD BE GREAT, THAT WAY I WON'T FALL ASLEEP BEHIND THE WHEEL!
NW
9

?!
NW
MY TRUCK! HE STOLE MY TRUCK!
WHO?
I DON'T KNOW!
CALL THE GUARD TO PREVENT HIS ESCAPE!
♫
HELLO? WHAT? WHAT TRUCK?
?!
NW
10

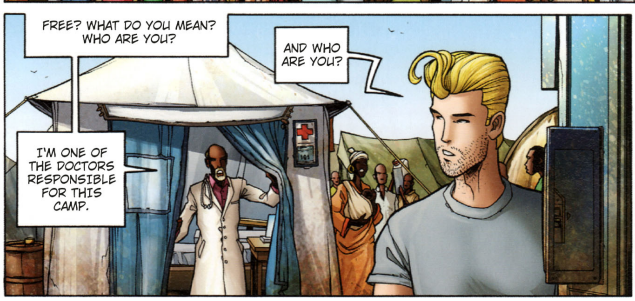


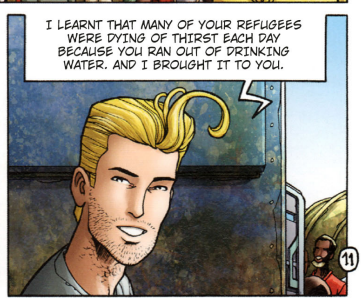


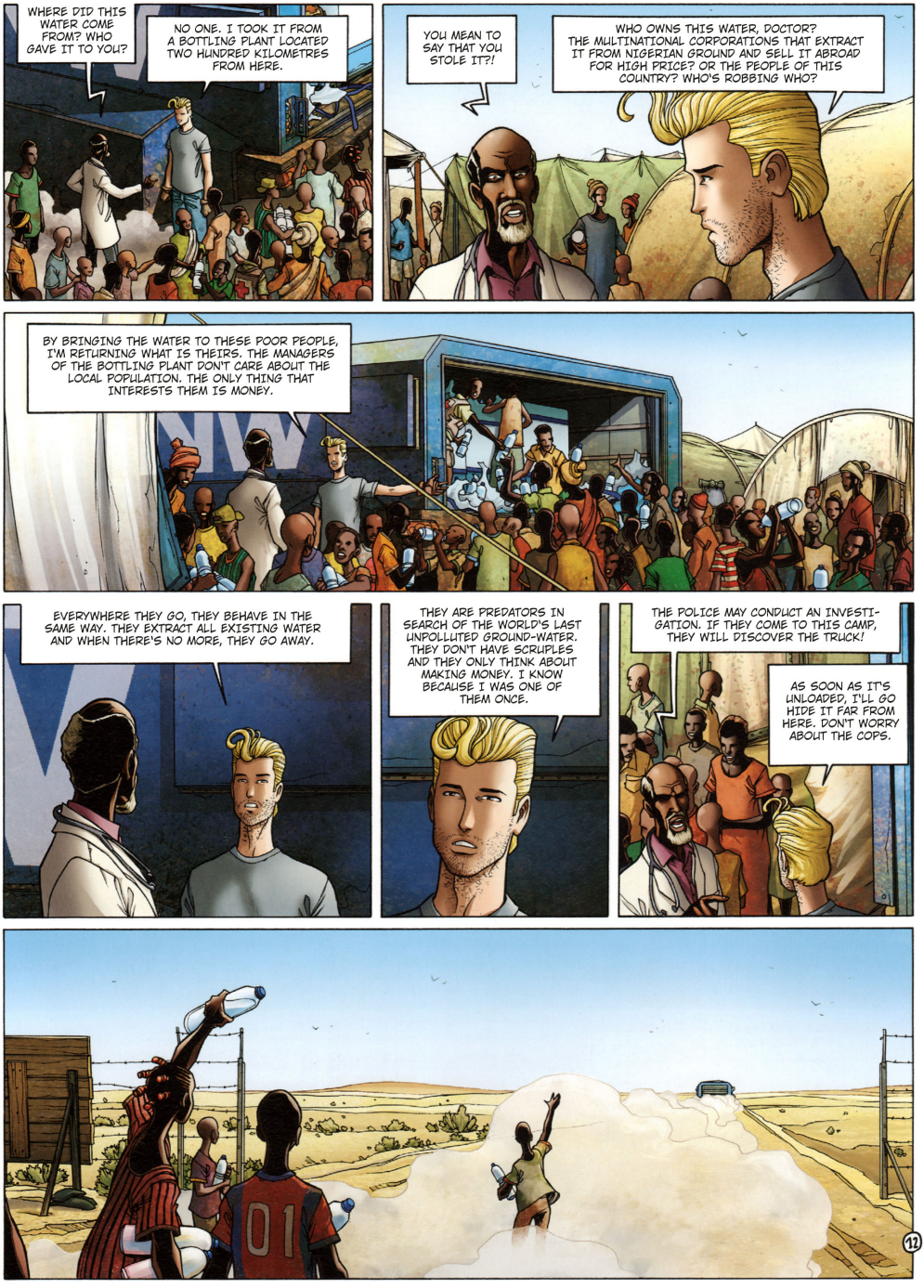

WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR TRUCK, MISTER?
WATER!

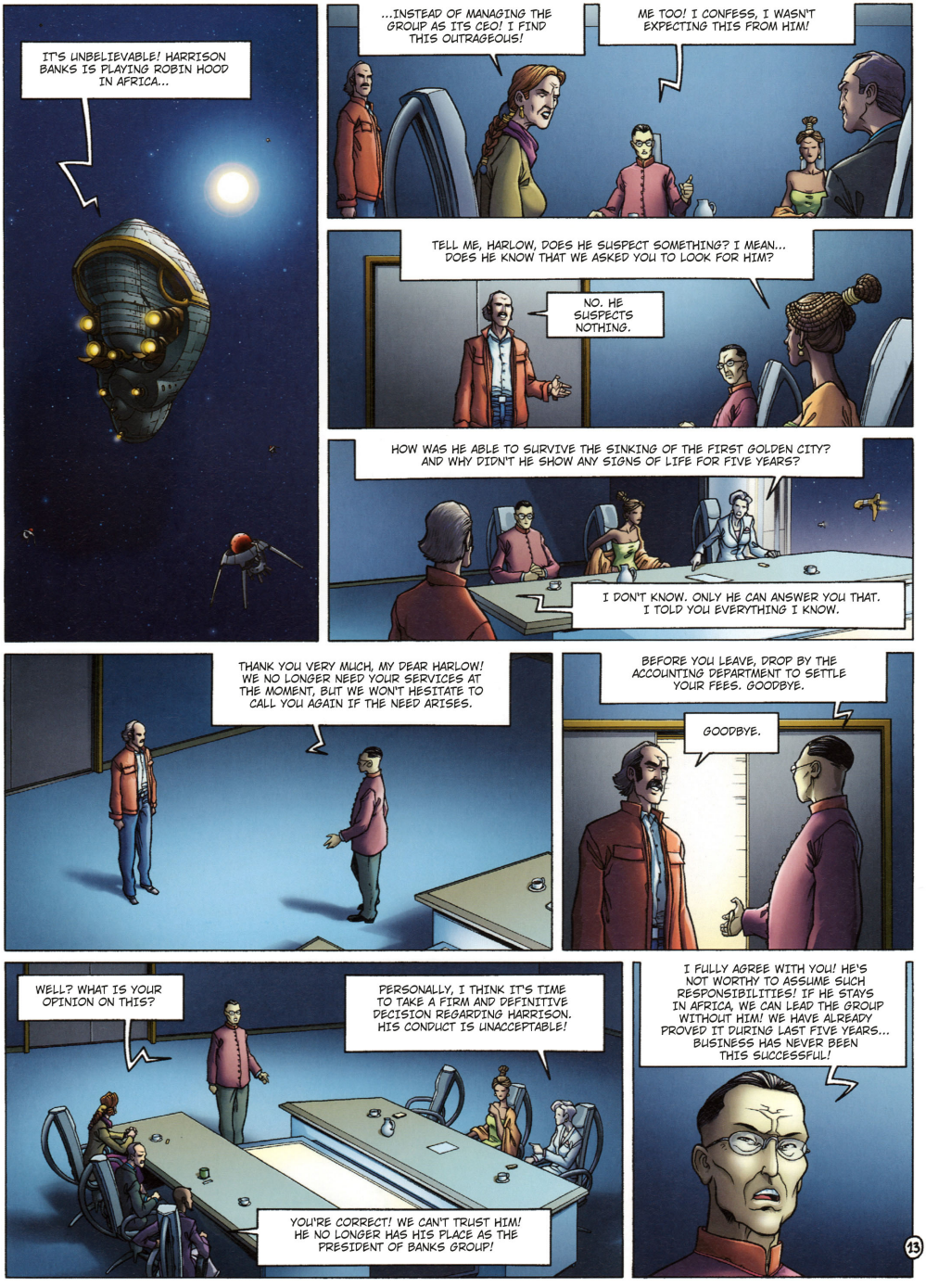
WATER YOU CAN DRINK?
YES. IT'S DRINKABLE. YOU WON'T CATCH DISEASES WITH IT.
THEN IT MUST BE VERY EXPENSIVE! OUR PARENTS WON'T BUY IT FOR US, THEY DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.

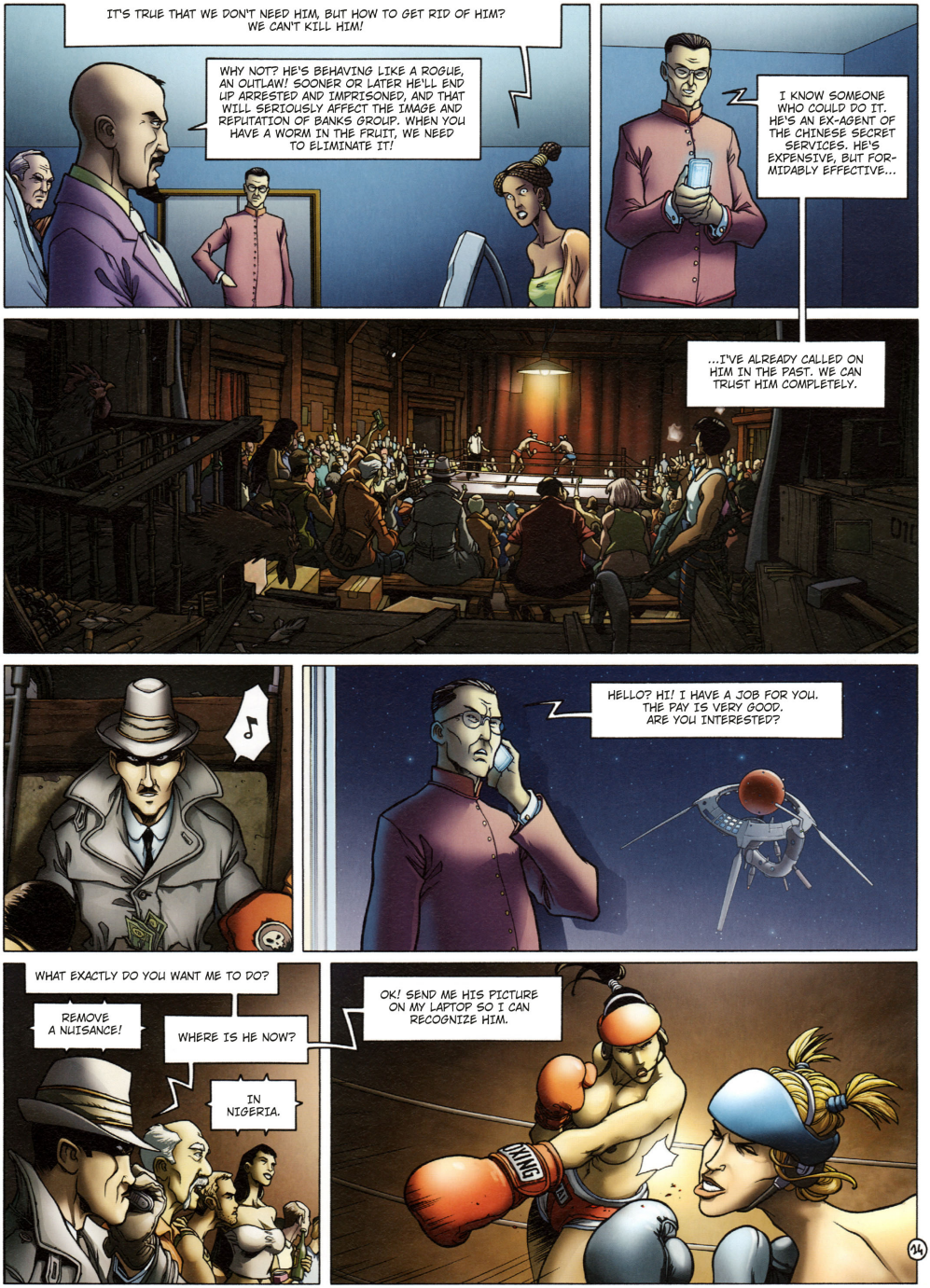
WHO'S TALKING ABOUT MONEY?! HELP YOURSELF! IT'S FREE!


FREE? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHO ARE YOU?
AND WHO ARE YOU?
I'M ONE OF THE DOCTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS CAMP.


I LEARNT THAT MANY OF YOUR REFUGEES WERE DYING OF THIRST EACH DAY BECAUSE YOU RAN OUT OF DRINKING WATER. AND I BROUGHT IT TO YOU.
11

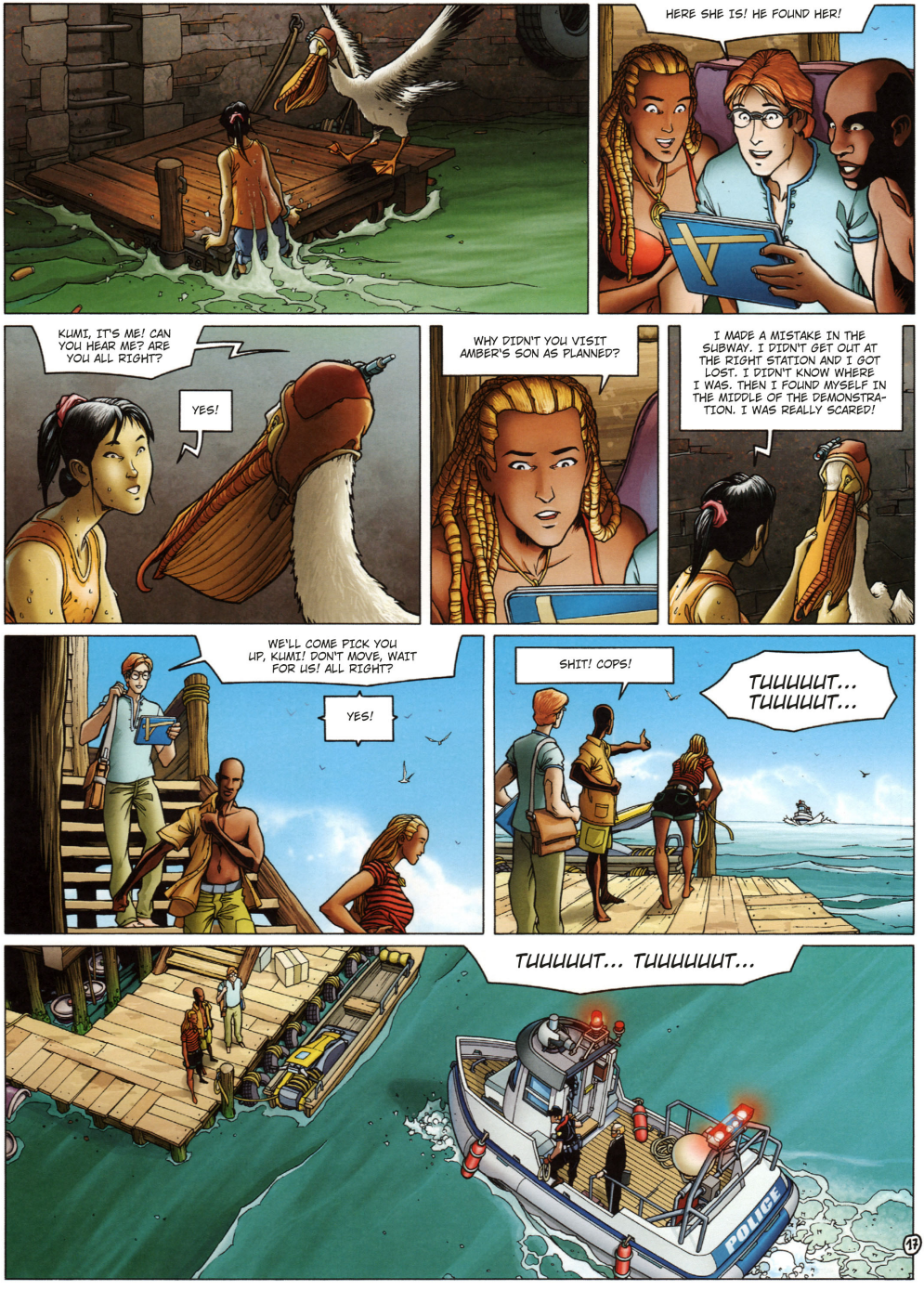

WHERE DID THIS WATER COME FROM? WHO GAVE IT TO YOU?
NO ONE. I TOOK IT FROM A BOTTLING PLANT LOCATED TWO HUNDRED KILOMETRES FROM HERE.
YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT YOU STOLE IT?!
WHO OWNS THIS WATER, DOCTOR? THE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS THAT EXTRACT IT FROM NIGERIAN GROUND AND SELL IT ABROAD FOR HIGH PRICE? OR THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY? WHO'S ROBBING WHO?
BY BRINGING THE WATER TO THESE POOR PEOPLE, I'M RETURNING WHAT IS THEIRS. THE MANAGERS OF THE BOTTLING PLANT DON'T CARE ABOUT THE LOCAL POPULATION. THE ONLY THING THAT INTERESTS THEM IS MONEY.
EVERYWHERE THEY GO, THEY BEHAVE IN THE SAME WAY. THEY EXTRACT ALL EXISTING WATER AND WHEN THERE'S NO MORE, THEY GO AWAY.
THEY ARE PREDATORS IN SEARCH OF THE WORLD'S LAST UNPOLLUTED GROUND-WATER. THEY DON'T HAVE SCRUPLES AND THEY ONLY THINK ABOUT MAKING MONEY. I KNOW BECAUSE I WAS ONE OF THEM ONCE.
THE POLICE MAY CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION. IF THEY COME TO THIS CAMP, THEY WILL DISCOVER THE TRUCK!
AS SOON AS IT'S UNLOADED, I'LL GO HIDE IT FAR FROM HERE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE COPS.
01
12

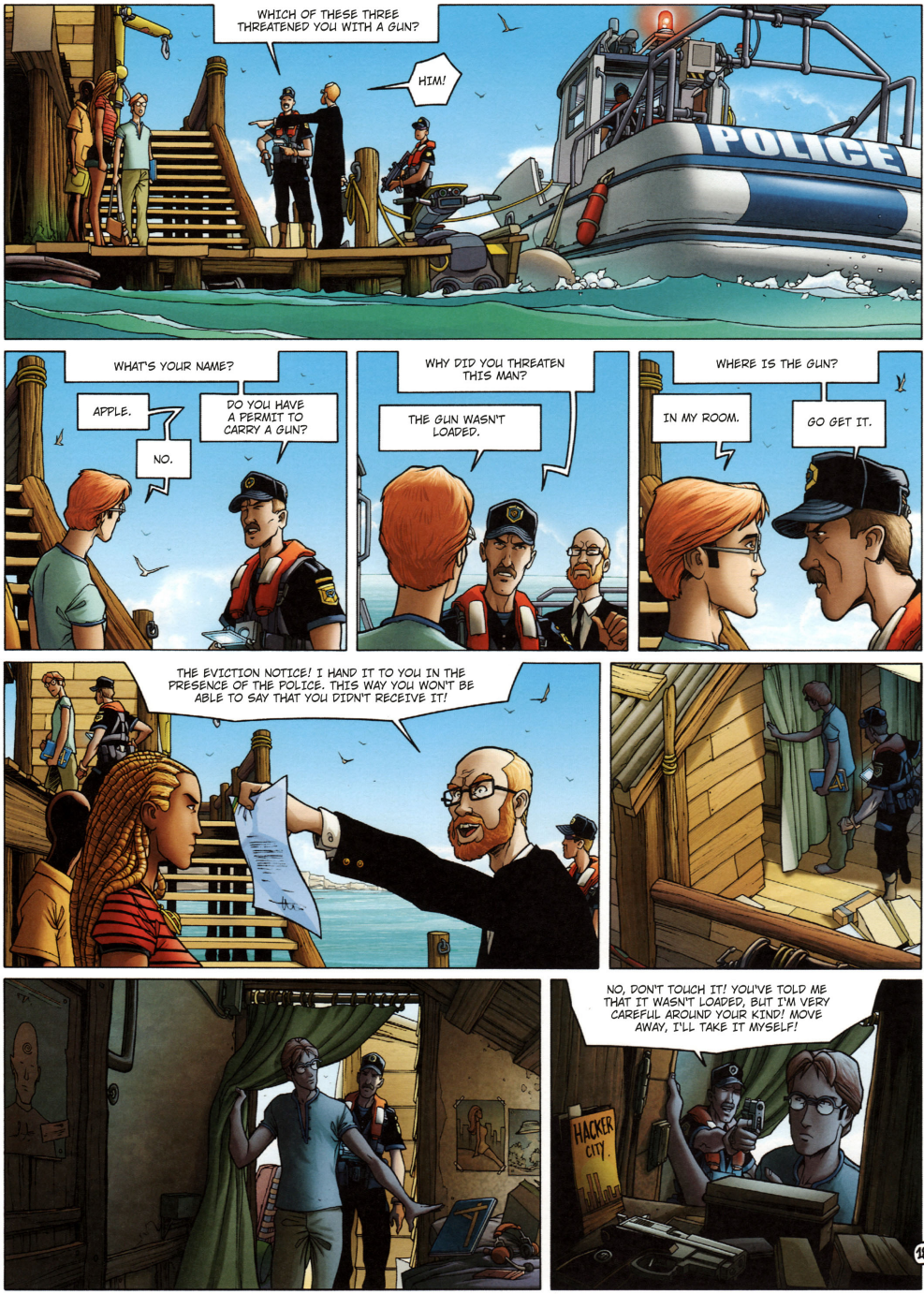

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! HARRISON BANKS IS PLAYING ROBIN HOOD IN AFRICA...
...INSTEAD OF MANAGING THE GROUP AS ITS CEO! I FIND THIS OUTRAGEOUS!
ME TOO! I CONFESS, I WASN'T EXPECTING THIS FROM HIM!
TELL ME, HARLOW, DOES HE SUSPECT SOMETHING? I MEAN... DOES HE KNOW THAT WE ASKED YOU TO LOOK FOR HIM?
NO. HE SUSPECTS NOTHING.
HOW WAS HE ABLE TO SURVIVE THE SINKING OF THE FIRST GOLDEN CITY? AND WHY DIDN'T HE SHOW ANY SIGNS OF LIFE FOR FIVE YEARS?
I DON'T KNOW. ONLY HE CAN ANSWER YOU THAT. I TOLD YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MY DEAR HARLOW! WE NO LONGER NEED YOUR SERVICES AT THE MOMENT, BUT WE WON'T HESITATE TO CALL YOU AGAIN IF THE NEED ARISES.
BEFORE YOU LEAVE, DROP BY THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT TO SETTLE YOUR FEES. GOODBYE.
GOODBYE.
WELL? WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON THIS?
PERSONALLY, I THINK IT'S TIME TO TAKE A FIRM AND DEFINITIVE DECISION REGARDING HARRISON. HIS CONDUCT IS UNACCEPTABLE!
YOU'RE CORRECT! WE CAN'T TRUST HIM! HE NO LONGER HAS HIS PLACE AS THE PRESIDENT OF BANKS GROUP!
I FULLY AGREE WITH YOU! HE'S NOT WORTHY TO ASSUME SUCH RESPONSIBILITIES! IF HE STAYS IN AFRICA, WE CAN LEAD THE GROUP WITHOUT HIM! WE HAVE ALREADY PROVED IT DURING LAST FIVE YEARS... BUSINESS HAS NEVER BEEN THIS SUCCESSFUL!
13


IT'S TRUE THAT WE DON'T NEED HIM, BUT HOW TO GET RID OF HIM? WE CAN'T KILL HIM!
WHY NOT? HE'S BEHAVING LIKE A ROGUE, AN OUTLAW! SOONER OR LATER HE'LL END UP ARRESTED AND IMPRISONED, AND THAT WILL SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE IMAGE AND REPUTATION OF BANKS GROUP. WHEN YOU HAVE A WORM IN THE FRUIT, WE NEED TO ELIMINATE IT!
I KNOW SOMEONE WHO COULD DO IT. HE'S AN EX-AGENT OF THE CHINESE SECRET SERVICES. HE'S EXPENSIVE, BUT FORMIDABLY EFFECTIVE...
...I'VE ALREADY CALLED ON HIM IN THE PAST. WE CAN TRUST HIM COMPLETELY.
HELLO? HI! I HAVE A JOB FOR YOU. THE PAY IS VERY GOOD. ARE YOU INTERESTED?
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
REMOVE A NUISANCE!
WHERE IS HE NOW?
IN NIGERIA.
OK! SEND ME HIS PICTURE ON MY LAPTOP SO I CAN RECOGNIZE HIM.
DYING
14

TOO
POLICE
15

?!
RESTAURANT
16


HERE SHE IS! HE FOUND HER!
KUMI, IT'S ME! CAN YOU HEAR ME? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES!
WHY DIDN'T YOU VISIT AMBER'S SON AS PLANNED?
I MADE A MISTAKE IN THE SUBWAY. I DIDN'T GET OUT AT THE RIGHT STATION AND I GOT LOST. I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE I WAS. THEN I FOUND MYSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DEMONSTRATION. I WAS REALLY SCARED!
WE'LL COME PICK YOU UP, KUMI! DON'T MOVE, WAIT FOR US! ALL RIGHT?
YES!
SHIT! COPS!
TUUUUUT... TUUUUUT...
TUUUUUT... TUUUUUT...
POLICE
17

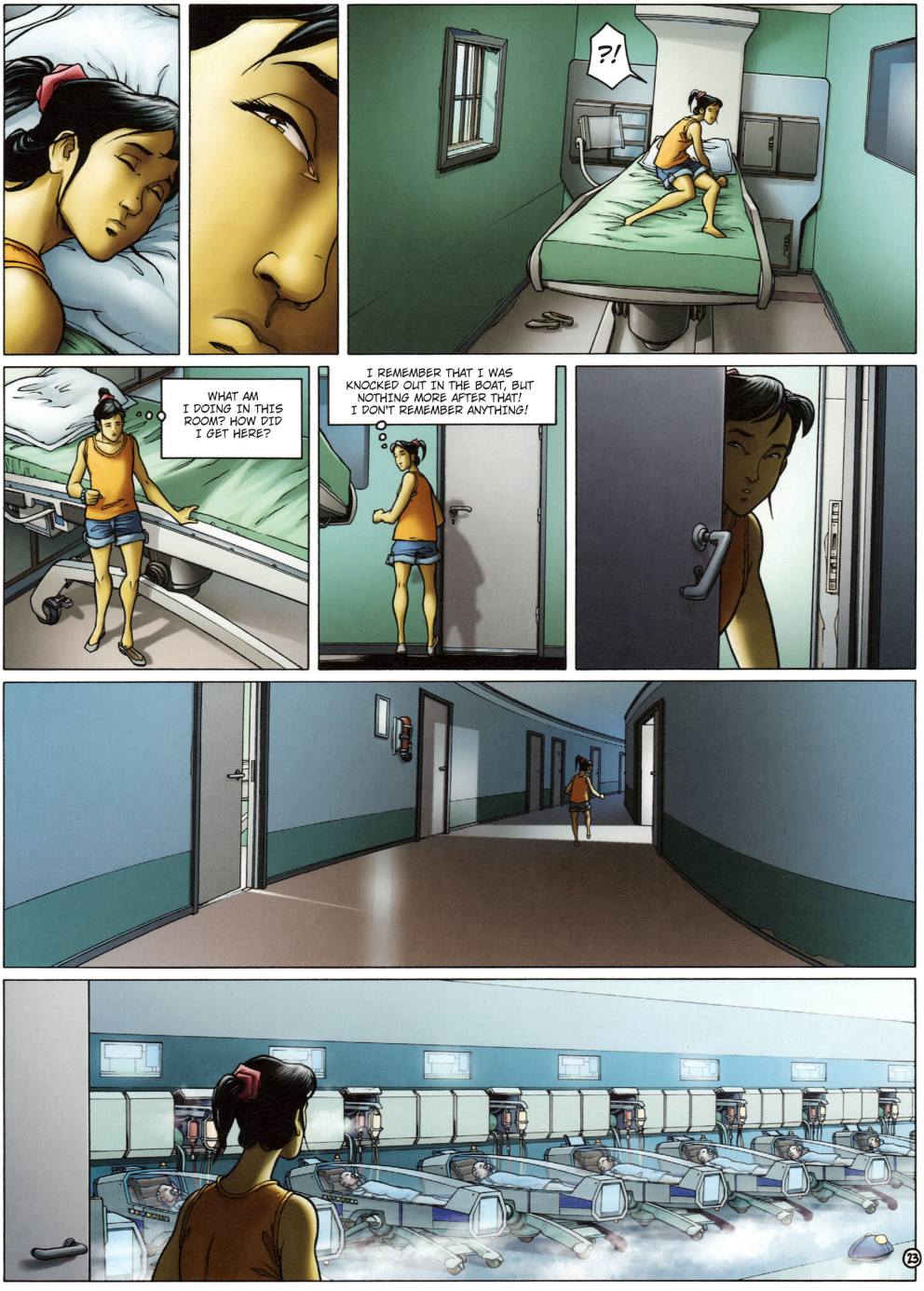

WHICH OF THESE THREE THREATENED YOU WITH A GUN?
HIM!
POLICE
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
APPLE.
DO YOU HAVE A PERMIT TO CARRY A GUN?
NO.
WHY DID YOU THREATEN THIS MAN?
THE GUN WASN'T LOADED.
WHERE IS THE GUN?
IN MY ROOM.
GO GET IT.
THE EVICTION NOTICE! I HAND IT TO YOU IN THE PRESENCE OF THE POLICE. THIS WAY YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SAY THAT YOU DIDN'T RECEIVE IT!
NO, DON'T TOUCH IT! YOU'VE TOLD ME THAT IT WASN'T LOADED, BUT I'M VERY CAREFUL AROUND YOUR KIND! MOVE AWAY, I'LL TAKE IT MYSELF!
HACKER CITY
18

HACKER CITY
HACKER CITY
WHERE DID ALL THIS CASH COME FROM? DID YOU STEAL IT FROM SOMEONE?
NO. I CAN EXPLAIN...
YOU CAN EXPLAIN AT THE POLICE STATION. YOU'RE COMING WITH US. YOUR FRIENDS TOO.
HI! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
KUMIKO.
IS THIS PELICAN YOURS?
YES. HE'S TAMED. HE'S VERY INTELLIGENT, HE UNDERSTANDS EVERYTHING WE TELL HIM.
WHAT'S THAT THING ON HIS HEAD?
A CAMERA. I CAN COMMUNICATE WITH MY SISTER AND BROTHERS WITH IT.
19

THIS THING HAS TO BOTHER HIM!
?!
CLIMB IN MY BOAT!
ME? WHY?
DON'T ASK QUESTIONS AND DO WHAT I TELL YOU, OTHERWISE I'LL CUT YOUR PELICAN'S THROAT!
?!
20

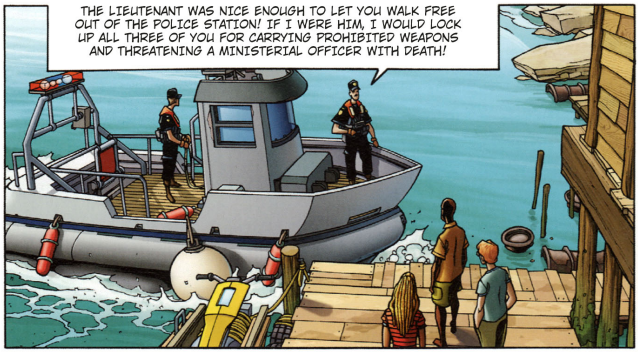
THIS CLUMSY GIRL IS KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS!
SO MUCH THE BETTER, AT LEAST SHE WILL STAY QUIET DURING THE TRIP!
BUT YOU SAID THAT YOU DIDN'T STEAL THIS MONEY!
IF YOU DIDN'T STEAL IT, HOW DID YOU GET IT? NOT BY WORKING, SINCE NONE OF YOUR THREE WORKS... THEN HOW?
SOMEONE SENDS IT TO US.
21

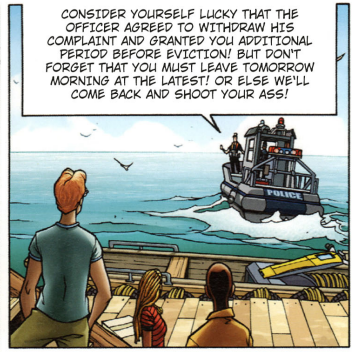
ARE YOU TAKING ME FOR A FOOL?
NO, I'M TELLING YOU THE TRUTH. WE RECEIVE MONEY IN CASH EVERY QUARTER BY PARCEL SENT BY MAIL.
WHO SENDS IT?
WE DON'T KNOW.
IT'S AN ANONYMOUS PACKAGE. WE DON'T KNOW THE NAME OF THE SENDER.
WE'RE TELLING YOU THE TRUTH! YOU SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR OUR LITTLE SISTER INSTEAD OF LOSING TIME WITH OUR INTERROGATION! THAT'S WHAT MY FATHER WOULD HAVE DONE IN YOUR PLACE!
YOUR FATHER? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
RANDY KWANGO. DOES THAT TELL YOU ANYTHING?
SURE DOES! HE MANAGED THE DRUG SQUAD. A GREAT COP. A MAN OF INTEGRITY AND RESPECTED BY ALL. POOR MAN WAS BROUGHT DOWN BY A DEALER.
YES. AND MY MOTHER DIED FROM GRIEF...
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME EARLIER THAT YOU WERE KWANGO'S SON! THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING!
REMOVE THEIR HANDCUFFS!
WHAT'S THE NAME OF YOUR LITTLE SISTER?
KUMIKO. SHE GOT LOST IN TOWN, BUT OUR PELICAN FOUND HER. WE JUST STARTED LOOKING FOR HER WHEN YOUR COLLEAGUES CAME TO ARREST US.
WHERE WAS SHE AT THAT MOMENT?
IN DOWNTOWN!
GOOD! I'LL SEND A WANTED NOTICE TO ALL POLICE VEHICLES CURRENTLY ON PATROL. AS FOR YOU THREE, WE'RE GOING TO TAKE YOU BACK TO YOUR HOME. BUT I'M KEEPING YOUR GUN. THAT WAY I'LL BE SURE YOU WON'T USE IT AGAIN!
22

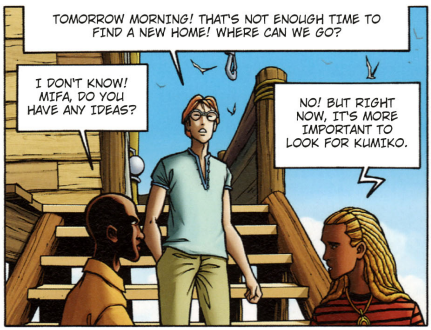

?!
WHAT AM I DOING IN THIS ROOM? HOW DID I GET HERE?
I REMEMBER THAT I WAS KNOCKED OUT IN THE BOAT, BUT NOTHING MORE AFTER THAT! I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING!
23

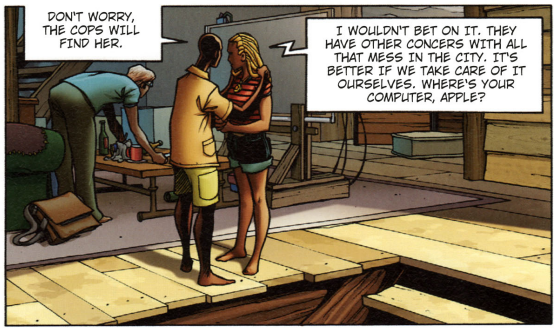
?!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? RETURN BACK TO YOUR ROOM RIGHT NOW!
NOOOO! LET GO OF ME! I WANT TO LEAVE!
YOU LITTLE BITCH!
HELLO? A LITTLE GIRL IS TRYING TO ESCAPE! STOP HER FROM GOING OUT OF THE PARK!
24

OW!
IT'S DONE, PROFESSOR, I'VE STOPPED THE GIRL. SHE'S GOING TO SLEEP FOR QUITE SOME TIME WITH THE DOSE OF SLEEPING DRUGS CONTAINED IN THE SYRINGE!
PERFECT! BRING HER BACK HERE. I'LL LOCK HER IN HER ROOM AND TIE HER UP. SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO ESCAPE ANYMORE.
25


THE LIEUTENANT WAS NICE ENOUGH TO LET YOU WALK FREE OUT OF THE POLICE STATION! IF I WERE HIM, I WOULD LOCK UP ALL THREE OF YOU FOR CARRYING PROHIBITED WEAPONS AND THREATENING A MINISTERIAL OFFICER WITH DEATH!

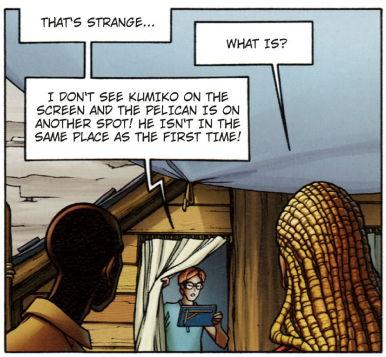

CONSIDER YOURSELF LUCKY THAT THE OFFICER AGREED TO WITHDRAW HIS COMPLAINT AND GRANTED YOU ADDITIONAL PERIOD BEFORE EVICTION! BUT DON'T FORGET THAT YOU MUST LEAVE TOMORROW MORNING AT THE LATEST! OR ELSE WE'LL COME BACK AND SHOOT YOUR ASS!
POLICE

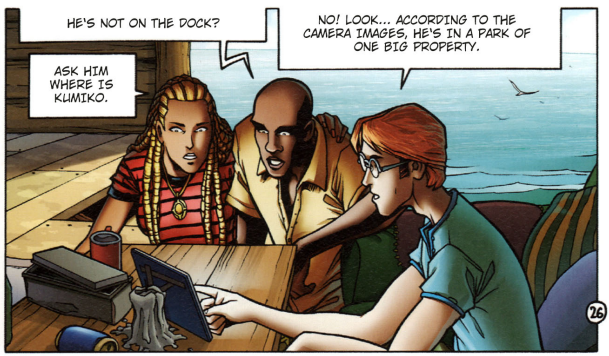

TOMORROW MORNING! THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TIME TO FIND A NEW HOME! WHERE CAN WE GO?
I DON'T KNOW! MIFA, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?
NO! BUT RIGHT NOW, IT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO LOOK FOR KUMIKO.

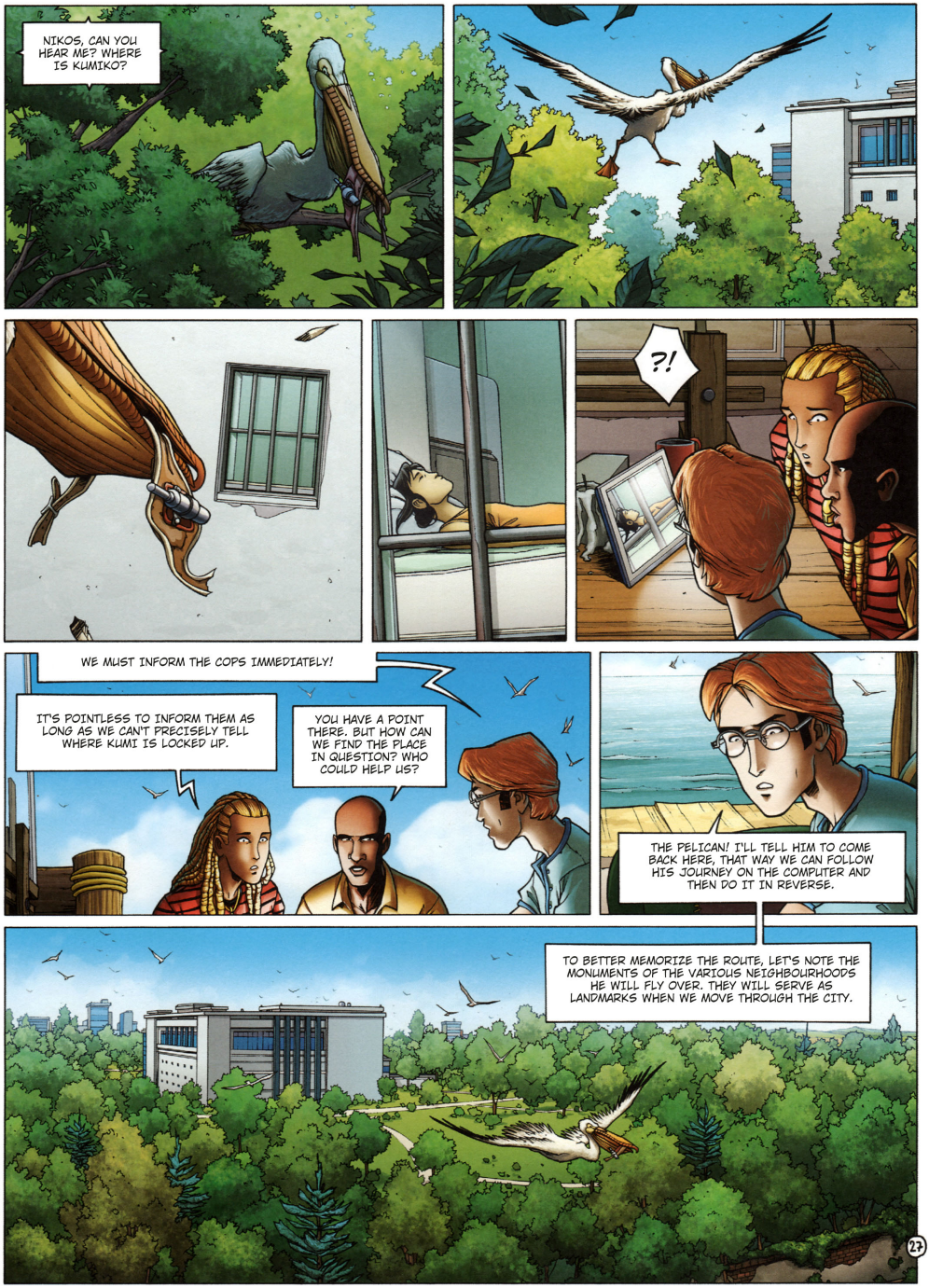

DON'T WORRY, THE COPS WILL FIND HER.
I WOULDN'T BET ON IT. THEY HAVE OTHER CONCERS WITH ALL THAT MESS IN THE CITY. IT'S BETTER IF WE TAKE CARE OF IT OURSELVES. WHERE'S YOUR COMPUTER, APPLE?

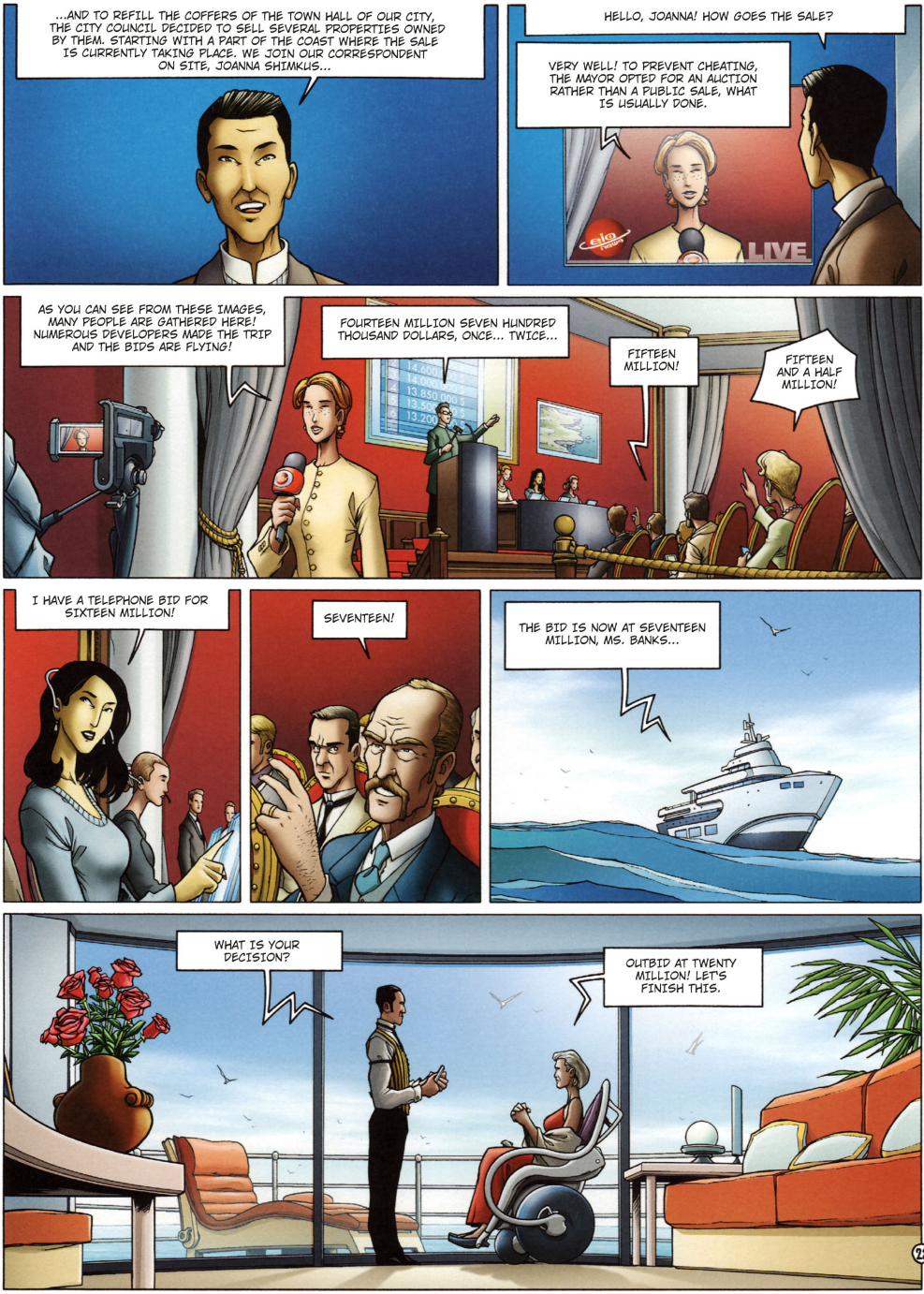
IN MY ROOM. I'LL GO GET IT.

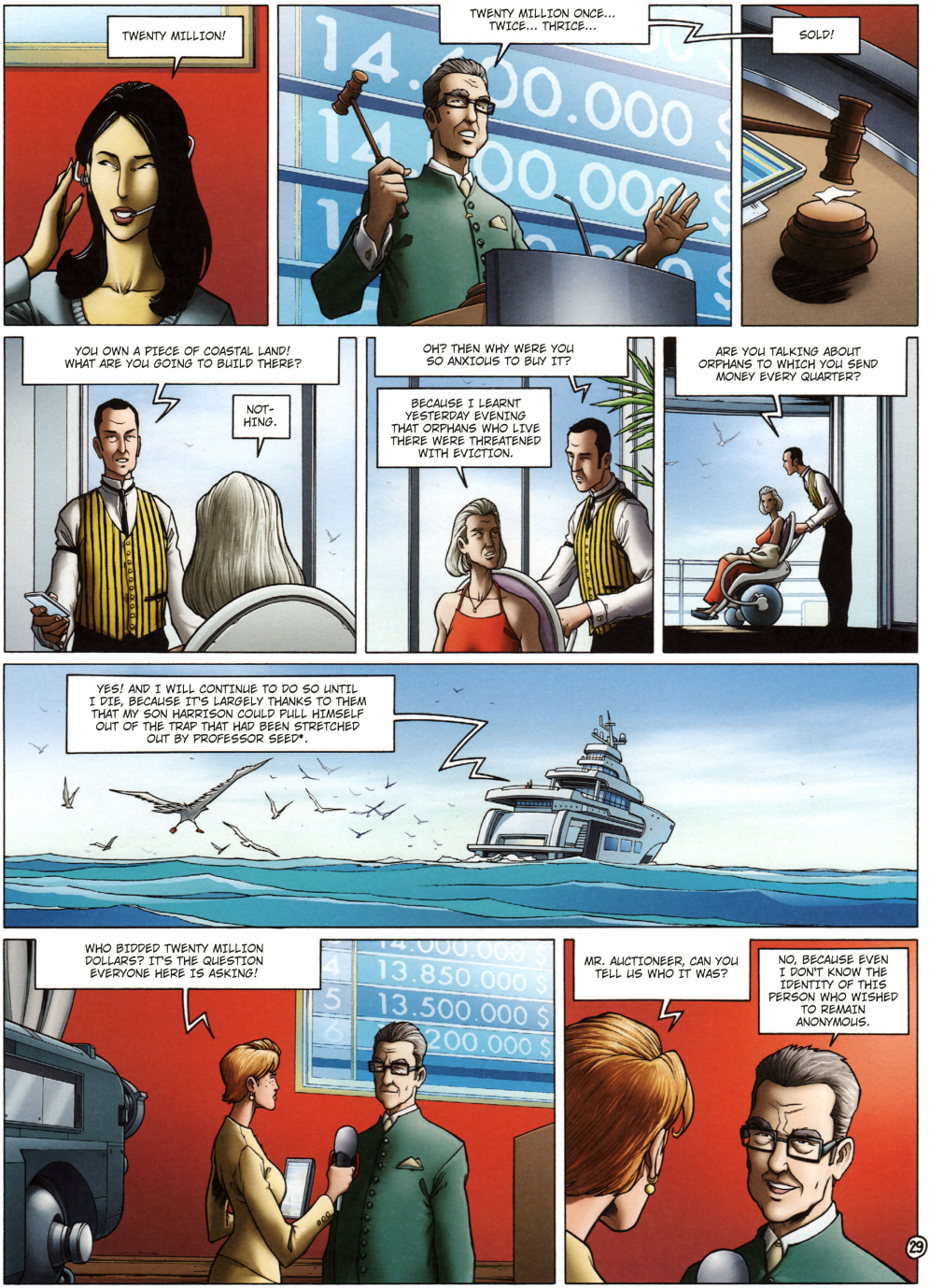
THE CASH! THE COPS FORGOT TO GIVE IT BACK!
IF YOU ASK ME, I DON'T THINK THEY FORGOT. THEY KNOW WE WON'T DARE TO DEMAND IT BACK.


THAT'S STRANGE...
WHAT IS?
I DON'T SEE KUMIKO ON THE SCREEN AND THE PELICAN IS ON ANOTHER SPOT! HE ISN'T IN THE SAME PLACE AS THE FIRST TIME!

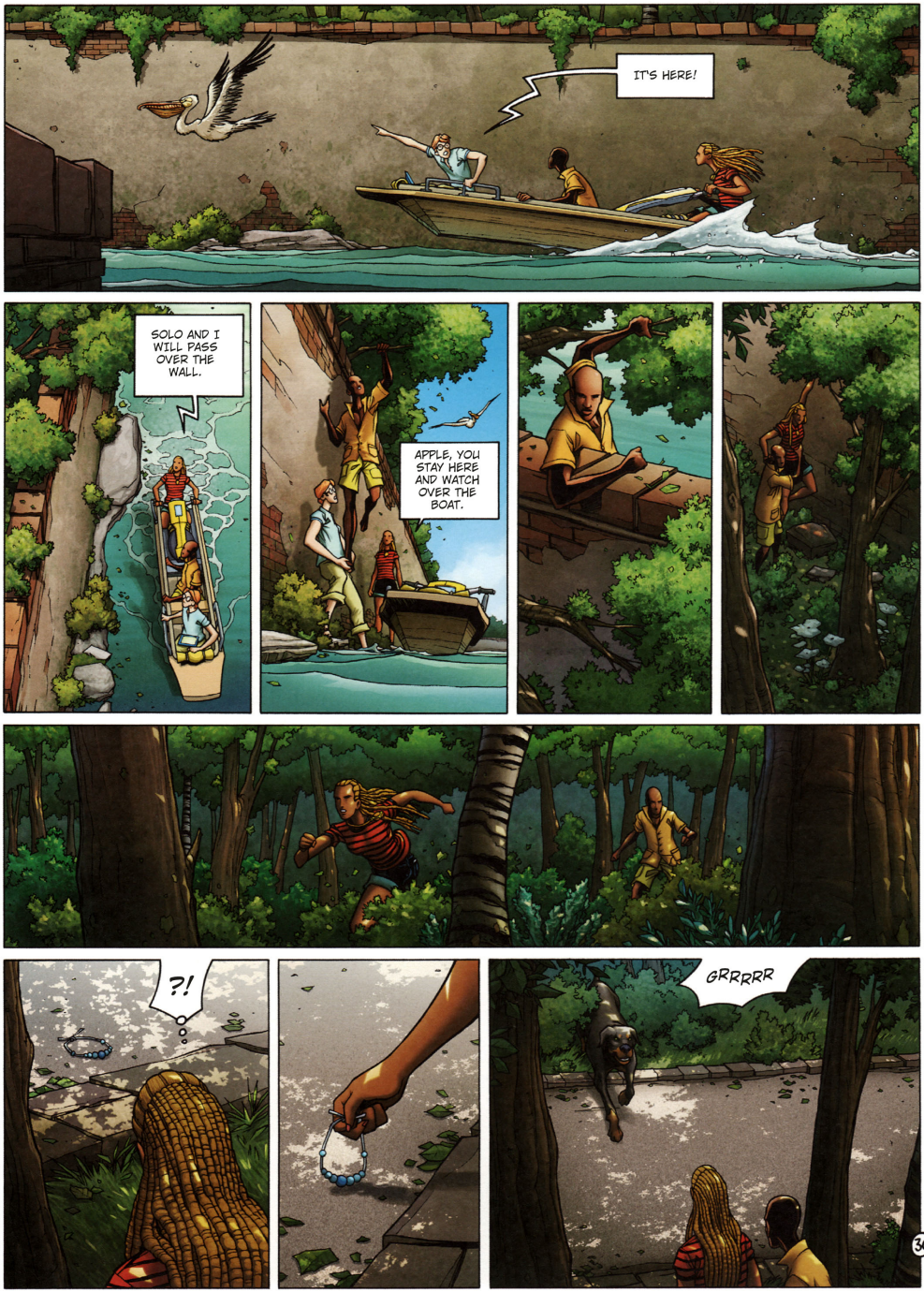

HE'S NOT ON THE DOCK?
NO! LOOK... ACCORDING TO THE CAMERA IMAGES, HE'S IN A PARK OF ONE BIG PROPERTY.
ASK HIM WHERE IS KUMIKO.


NIKOS, CAN YOU HEAR ME? WHERE IS KUMIKO?
?!
WE MUST INFORM THE COPS IMMEDIATELY!
IT'S POINTLESS TO INFORM THEM AS LONG AS WE CAN'T PRECISELY TELL WHERE KUMI IS LOCKED UP.
YOU HAVE A POINT THERE. BUT HOW CAN WE FIND THE PLACE IN QUESTION? WHO COULD HELP US?
THE PELICAN! I'LL TELL HIM TO COME BACK HERE, THAT WAY WE CAN FOLLOW HIS JOURNEY ON THE COMPUTER AND THEN DO IT IN REVERSE.
TO BETTER MEMORIZE THE ROUTE, LET'S NOTE THE MONUMENTS OF THE VARIOUS NEIGHBOURHOODS HE WILL FLY OVER. THEY WILL SERVE AS LANDMARKS WHEN WE MOVE THROUGH THE CITY.
27


...AND TO REFILL THE COFFERS OF THE TOWN HALL OF OUR CITY, THE CITY COUNCIL DECIDED TO SELL SEVERAL PROPERTIES OWNED BY THEM. STARTING WITH A PART OF THE COAST WHERE THE SALE IS CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE. WE JOIN OUR CORRESPONDENT ON SITE, JOANNA SHIMKUS...
HELLO, JOANNA! HOW GOES THE SALE?
VERY WELL! TO PREVENT CHEATING, THE MAYOR OPTED FOR AN AUCTION RATHER THAN A PUBLIC SALE, WHAT IS USUALLY DONE.
LIVE
AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THESE IMAGES, MANY PEOPLE ARE GATHERED HERE! NUMEROUS DEVELOPERS MADE THE TRIP AND THE BIDS ARE FLYING!
FOURTEEN MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS, ONCE... TWICE...
FIFTEEN MILLION!
FIFTEEN AND A HALF MILLION!
I HAVE A TELEPHONE BID FOR SIXTEEN MILLION!
SEVENTEEN!
THE BID IS NOW AT SEVENTEEN MILLION, MS. BANKS...
WHAT IS YOUR DECISION?
OUTBID AT TWENTY MILLION! LET'S FINISH THIS.
23

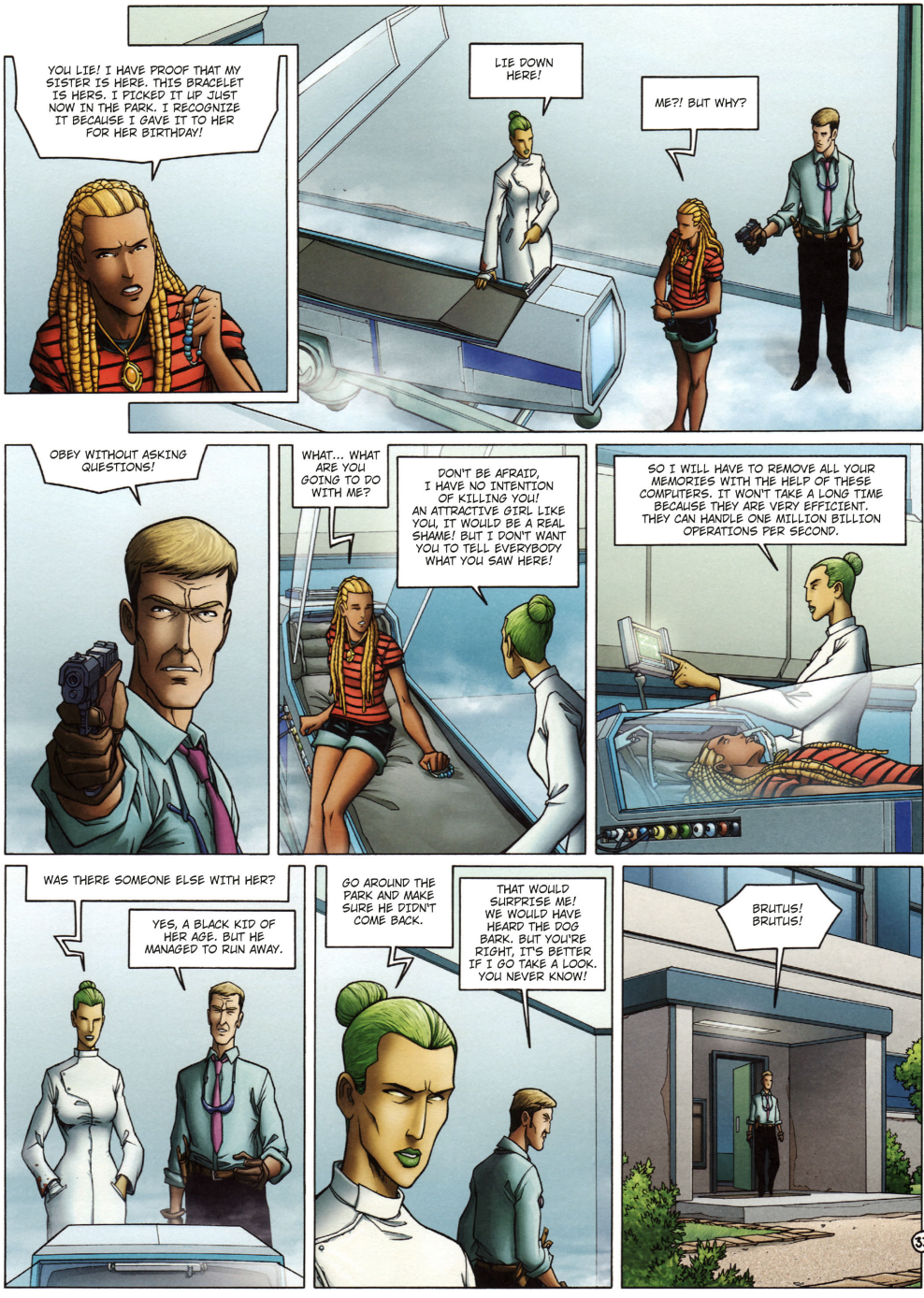

TWENTY MILLION!
TWENTY MILLION ONCE... TWICE... THRICE...
SOLD!
YOU OWN A PIECE OF COASTAL LAND! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO BUILD THERE?
NOT-HING.
OH? THEN WHY WERE YOU SO ANXIOUS TO BUY IT?
BECAUSE I LEARNT YESTERDAY EVENING THAT ORPHANS WHO LIVE THERE WERE THREATENED WITH EVICTION.
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ORPHANS TO WHICH YOU SEND MONEY EVERY QUARTER?
YES! AND I WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO UNTIL I DIE, BECAUSE IT'S LARGELY THANKS TO THEM THAT MY SON HARRISON COULD PULL HIMSELF OUT OF THE TRAP THAT HAD BEEN STRETCHED OUT BY PROFESSOR SEED*.
WHO BIDDED TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS? IT'S THE QUESTION EVERYONE HERE IS ASKING!
MR. AUCTIONEER, CAN YOU TELL US WHO IT WAS?
NO, BECAUSE EVEN I DON'T KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THIS PERSON WHO WISHED TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS.
29

*SEE PREVIOUS VOLUMES.

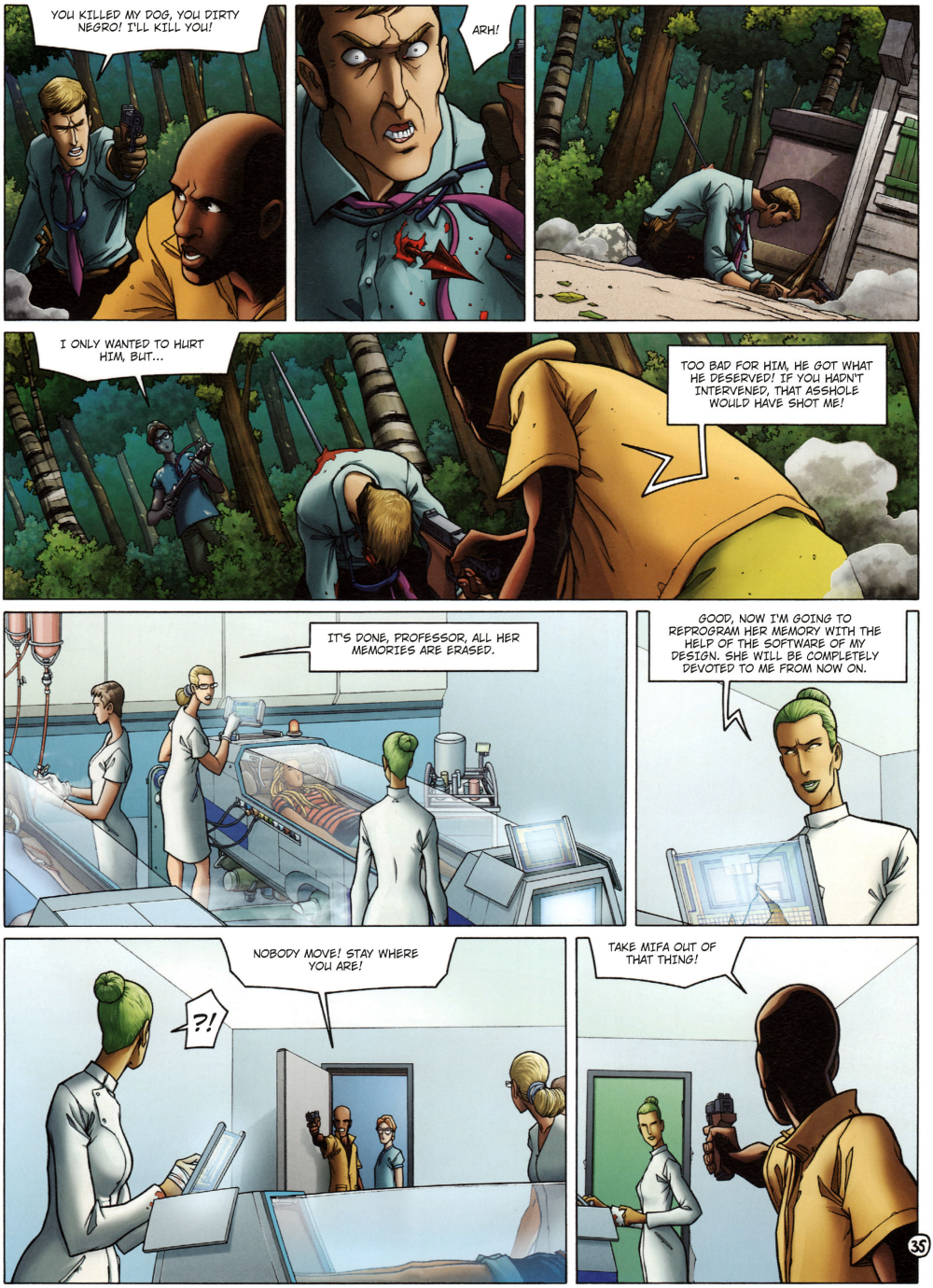

IT'S HERE!
SOLO AND I WILL PASS OVER THE WALL.
APPLE, YOU STAY HERE AND WATCH OVER THE BOAT.
?!
GRRRRR
30

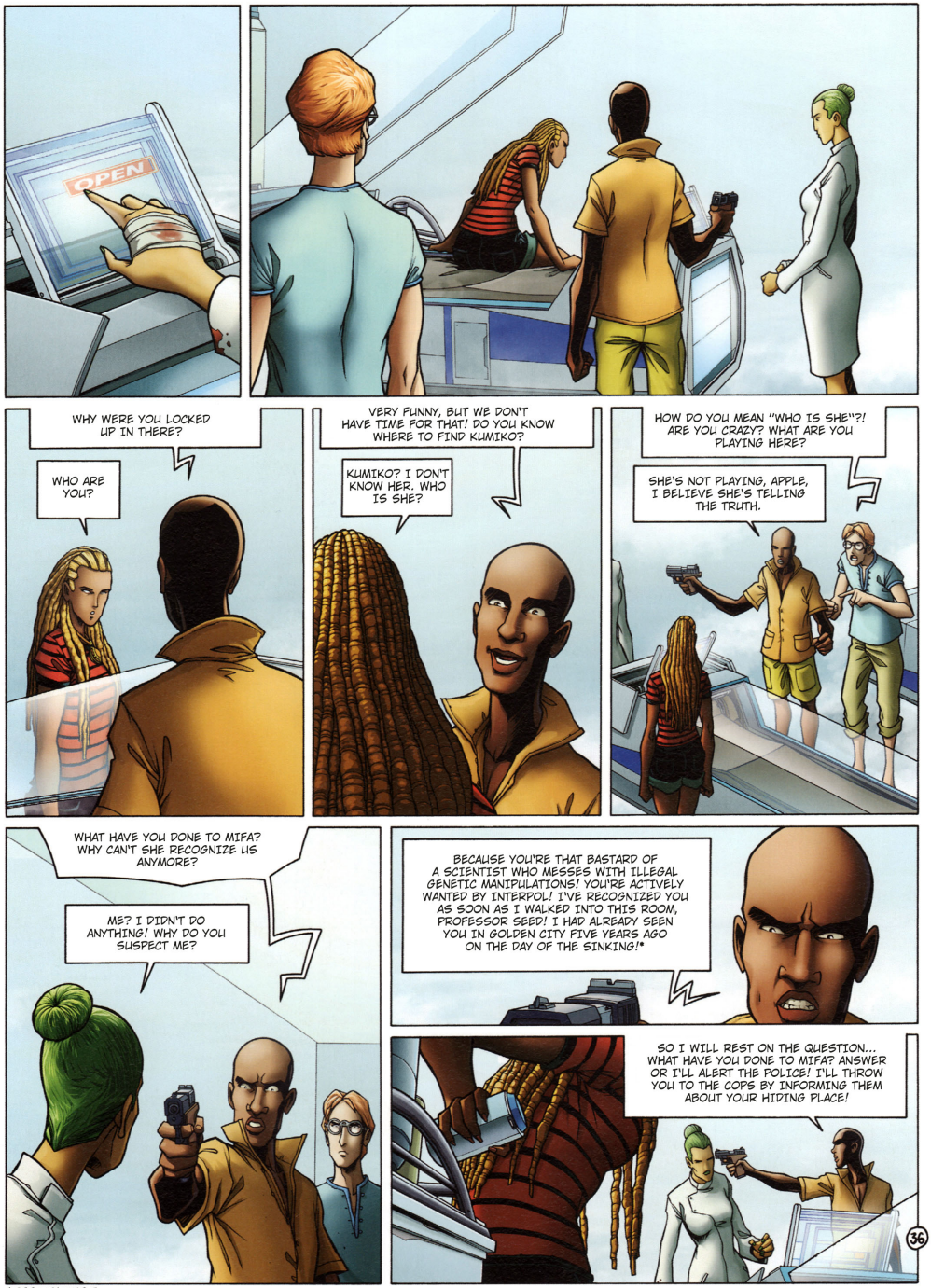
GRRRRR
GRRRRR
EASY, BRUTUS! EASY!
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I CAN EXPLAIN...
YOU WILL EXPLAIN IT TO MY BOSS! GET UP!
31

WE NEED TO GET MIFA OUT OF THERE. WE'LL GO BACK TOGETHER.
YOU'RE CRAZY, WE'LL GET EATEN BY THAT MUTT!
NO MUTT IN THE WORLD CAN STOP US!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
THIS!
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
I'VE ASKED YOU A QUESTION! ARE YOU DEAF? WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
ANSWER OR I'LL SHOOT!
MIFA.
WHY DID YOU HIDE IN THE PARK? WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I WAS JUST LOOKING FOR MY LITTLE SISTER.
HOW OLD IS SHE?
SHE'S TWELVE YEARS OLD.
ARE THERE ANY GIRLS OF THIS AGE IN THE CLINIC, PROFESSOR?
NO, NONE.
32


YOU LIE! I HAVE PROOF THAT MY SISTER IS HERE. THIS BRACELET IS HERS. I PICKED IT UP JUST NOW IN THE PARK. I RECOGNIZE IT BECAUSE I GAVE IT TO HER FOR HER BIRTHDAY!
LIE DOWN HERE!
ME?! BUT WHY?
OBEY WITHOUT ASKING QUESTIONS!
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME?
DON'T BE AFRAID, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF KILLING YOU! AN ATTRACTIVE GIRL LIKE YOU, IT WOULD BE A REAL SHAME! BUT I DON'T WANT YOU TO TELL EVERYBODY WHAT YOU SAW HERE!
SO I WILL HAVE TO REMOVE ALL YOUR MEMORIES WITH THE HELP OF THESE COMPUTERS. IT WON'T TAKE A LONG TIME BECAUSE THEY ARE VERY EFFICIENT. THEY CAN HANDLE ONE MILLION BILLION OPERATIONS PER SECOND.
WAS THERE SOMEONE ELSE WITH HER?
YES, A BLACK KID OF HER AGE. BUT HE MANAGED TO RUN AWAY.
GO AROUND THE PARK AND MAKE SURE HE DIDN'T COME BACK.
THAT WOULD SURPRISE ME! WE WOULD HAVE HEARD THE DOG BARK. BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S BETTER IF I GO TAKE A LOOK. YOU NEVER KNOW!
BRUTUS! BRUTUS!
33

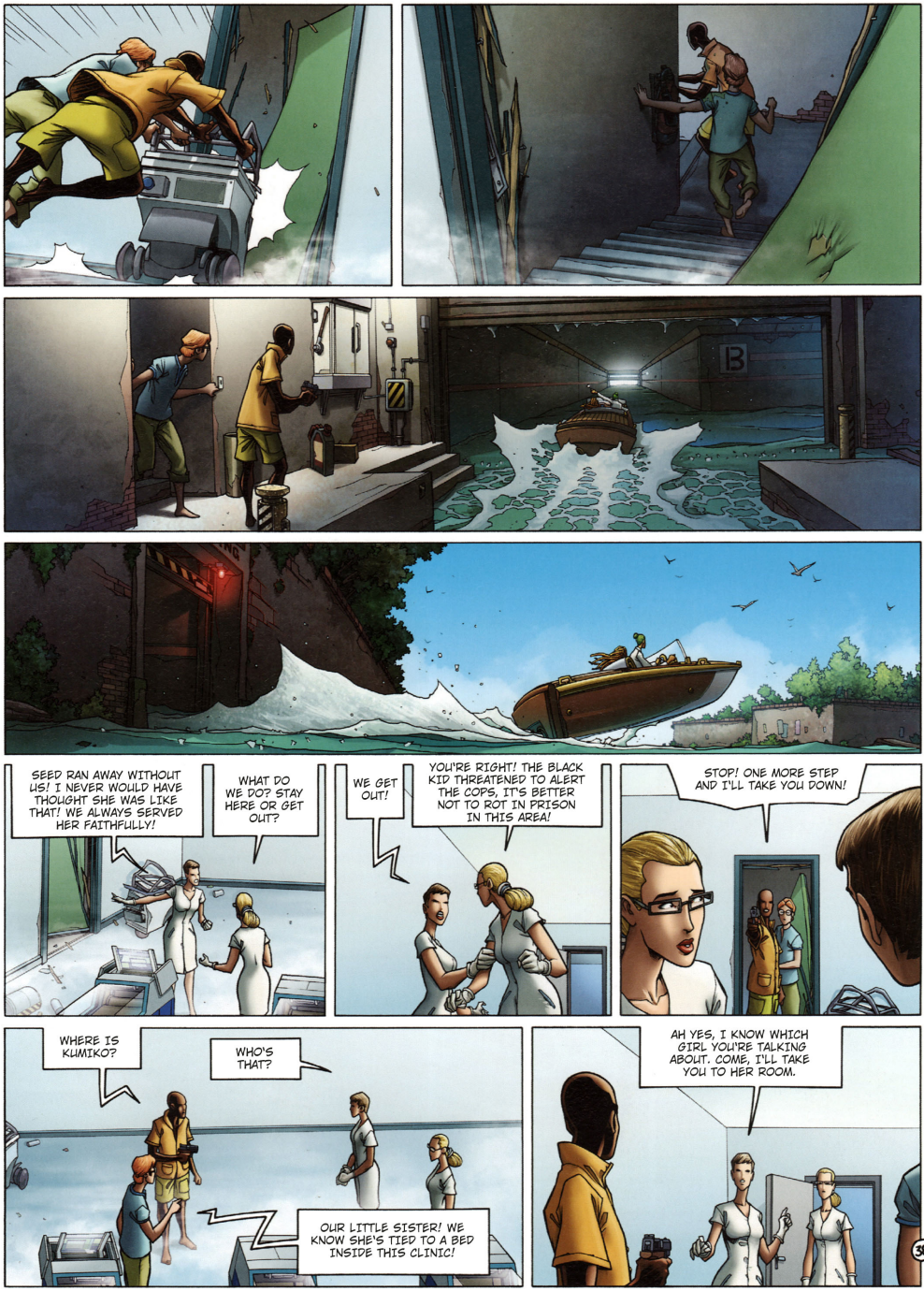
BRUTUS, WHERE ARE YOU? BRUTUS!
?!
HE'S DEAD! I'M SURE THE BLACK KID KILLED HIM! NOT WITH A RIFLE, I WOULD HAVE HEARD THE BANG! WHAT DID HE USE?
34

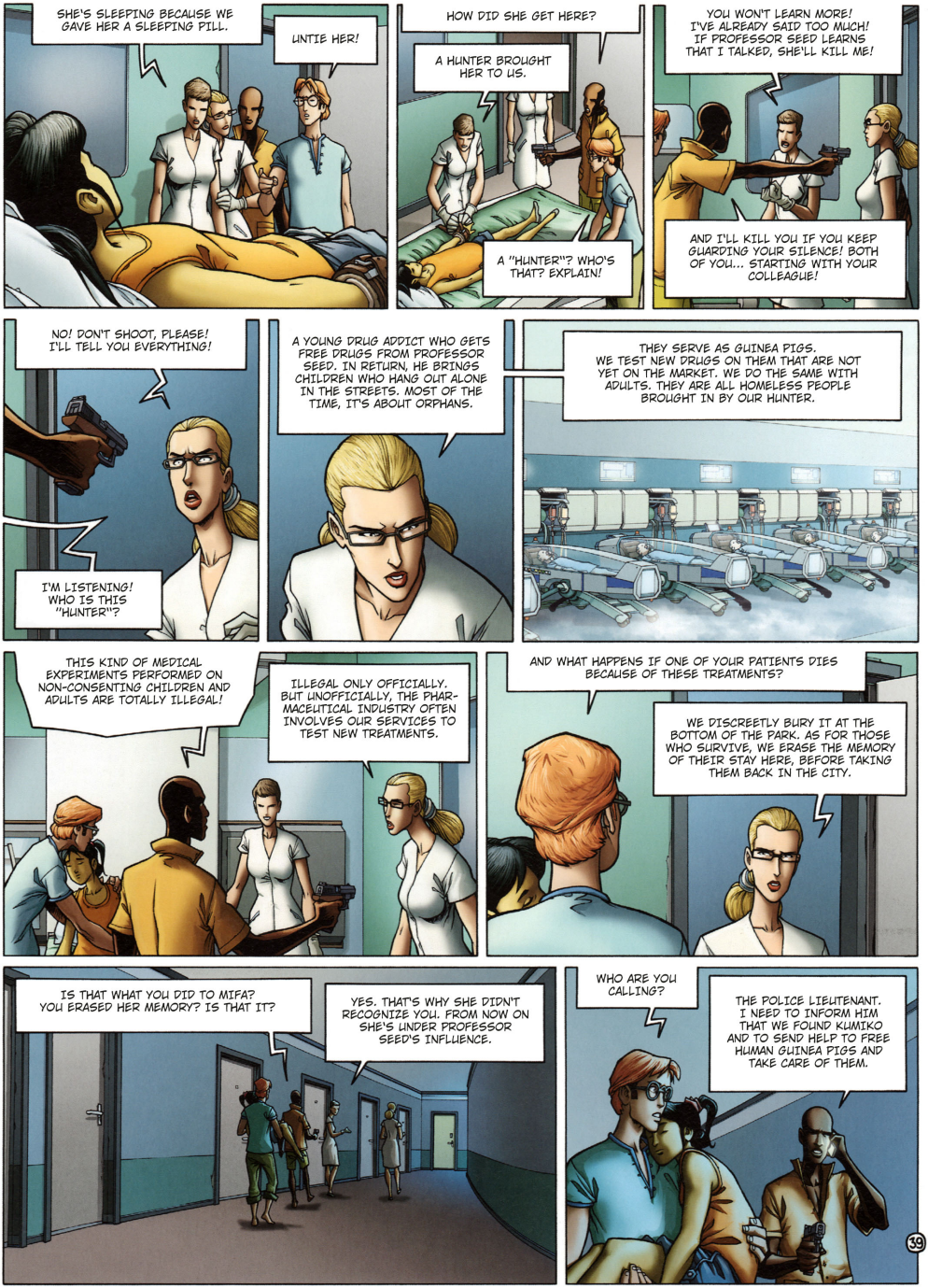

YOU KILLED MY DOG, YOU DIRTY NEGRO! I'LL KILL YOU!
ARH!
I ONLY WANTED TO HURT HIM, BUT...
TOO BAD FOR HIM, HE GOT WHAT HE DESERVED! IF YOU HADN'T INTERVENED, THAT ASSHOLE WOULD HAVE SHOT ME!
IT'S DONE, PROFESSOR, ALL HER MEMORIES ARE ERASED.
GOOD, NOW I'M GOING TO REPROGRAM HER MEMORY WITH THE HELP OF THE SOFTWARE OF MY DESIGN. SHE WILL BE COMPLETELY DEVOTED TO ME FROM NOW ON.
NOBODY MOVE! STAY WHERE YOU ARE!
?!
TAKE MIFA OUT OF THAT THING!
35

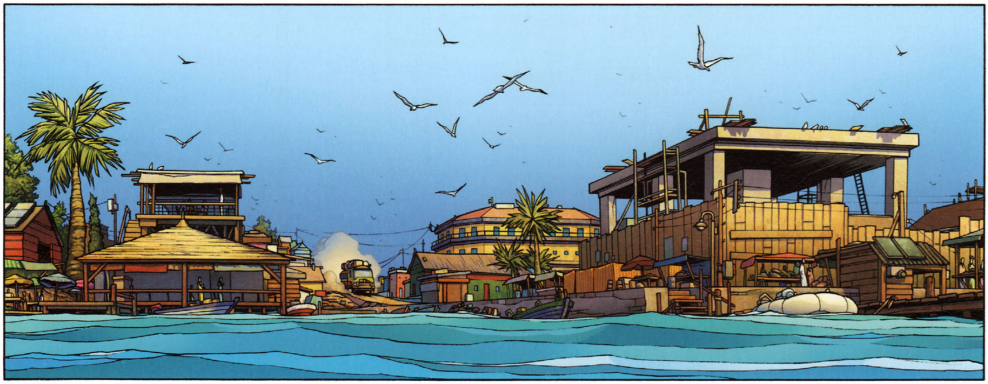

OPEN
WHY WERE YOU LOCKED UP IN THERE?
WHO ARE YOU?
VERY FUNNY, BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT! DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND KUMIKO?
KUMIKO? I DON'T KNOW HER. WHO IS SHE?
HOW DO YOU MEAN "WHO IS SHE"?! ARE YOU CRAZY? WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING HERE?
SHE'S NOT PLAYING, APPLE, I BELIEVE SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MIFA? WHY CAN'T SHE RECOGNIZE US ANYMORE?
ME? I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! WHY DO YOU SUSPECT ME?
BECAUSE YOU'RE THAT BASTARD OF A SCIENTIST WHO MESSES WITH ILLEGAL GENETIC MANIPULATIONS! YOU'RE ACTIVELY WANTED BY INTERPOL! I'VE RECOGNIZED YOU AS SOON AS I WALKED INTO THIS ROOM, PROFESSOR SEED! I HAD ALREADY SEEN YOU IN GOLDEN CITY FIVE YEARS AGO ON THE DAY OF THE SINKING!*
SO I WILL REST ON THE QUESTION... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MIFA? ANSWER OR I'LL ALERT THE POLICE! I'LL THROW YOU TO THE COPS BY INFORMING THEM ABOUT YOUR HIDING PLACE!
36

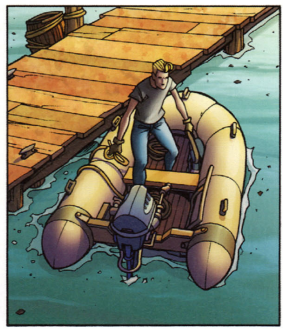
*SEE VOLUME 7.

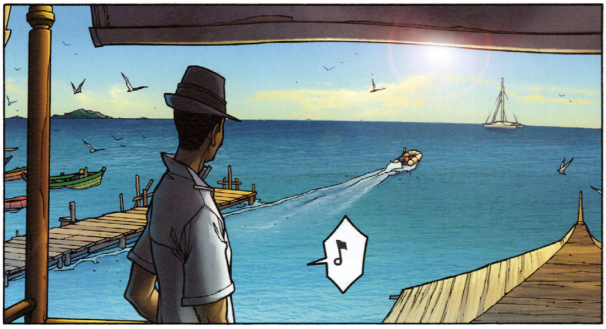
GOOD JOB! IN HERE! QUICKLY!
STOP RIGHT THERE, SEED, OR I'LL SHOOT!
NO, DON'T DO THAT! YOU MIGHT HURT MIFA!
GO DOWN, I'LL JOIN YOU!
SHIT, SHE LOCKED IT WITH A KEY!
GET IN THE BOAT!
37

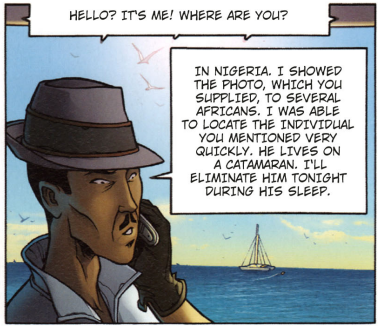

B
SEED RAN AWAY WITHOUT US! I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT SHE WAS LIKE THAT! WE ALWAYS SERVED HER FAITHFULLY!
WHAT DO WE DO? STAY HERE OR GET OUT?
WE GET OUT!
YOU'RE RIGHT! THE BLACK KID THREATENED TO ALERT THE COPS, IT'S BETTER NOT TO ROT IN PRISON IN THIS AREA!
STOP! ONE MORE STEP AND I'LL TAKE YOU DOWN!
WHERE IS KUMIKO?
WHO'S THAT?
OUR LITTLE SISTER! WE KNOW SHE'S TIED TO A BED INSIDE THIS CLINIC!
AH YES, I KNOW WHICH GIRL YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. COME, I'LL TAKE YOU TO HER ROOM.
38

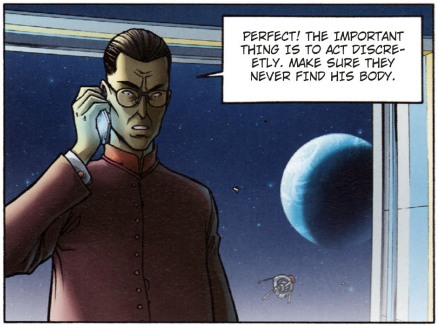

SHE'S SLEEPING BECAUSE WE GAVE HER A SLEEPING PILL.
UNTIE HER!
HOW DID SHE GET HERE?
A HUNTER BROUGHT HER TO US.
A "HUNTER"? WHO'S THAT? EXPLAIN!
YOU WON'T LEARN MORE! I'VE ALREADY SAID TOO MUCH! IF PROFESSOR SEED LEARNS THAT I TALKED, SHE'LL KILL ME!
AND I'LL KILL YOU IF YOU KEEP GUARDING YOUR SILENCE! BOTH OF YOU... STARTING WITH YOUR COLLEAGUE!
NO! DON'T SHOOT, PLEASE! I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING!
I'M LISTENING! WHO IS THIS "HUNTER"?
A YOUNG DRUG ADDICT WHO GETS FREE DRUGS FROM PROFESSOR SEED. IN RETURN, HE BRINGS CHILDREN WHO HANG OUT ALONE IN THE STREETS. MOST OF THE TIME, IT'S ABOUT ORPHANS.
THEY SERVE AS GUINEA PIGS. WE TEST NEW DRUGS ON THEM THAT ARE NOT YET ON THE MARKET. WE DO THE SAME WITH ADULTS. THEY ARE ALL HOMELESS PEOPLE BROUGHT IN BY OUR HUNTER.
THIS KIND OF MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS PERFORMED ON NON-CONSENTING CHILDREN AND ADULTS ARE TOTALLY ILLEGAL!
ILLEGAL ONLY OFFICIALLY. BUT UNOFFICIALLY, THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY OFTEN INVOLVES OUR SERVICES TO TEST NEW TREATMENTS.
AND WHAT HAPPENS IF ONE OF YOUR PATIENTS DIES BECAUSE OF THESE TREATMENTS?
WE DISCREETLY BURY IT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PARK. AS FOR THOSE WHO SURVIVE, WE ERASE THE MEMORY OF THEIR STAY HERE, BEFORE TAKING THEM BACK IN THE CITY.
IS THAT WHAT YOU DID TO MIFA? YOU ERASED HER MEMORY? IS THAT IT?
YES. THAT'S WHY SHE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU. FROM NOW ON SHE'S UNDER PROFESSOR SEED'S INFLUENCE.
WHO ARE YOU CALLING?
THE POLICE LIEUTENANT. I NEED TO INFORM HIM THAT WE FOUND KUMIKO AND TO SEND HELP TO FREE HUMAN GUINEA PIGS AND TAKE CARE OF THEM.
39








HELLO? IT'S ME! WHERE ARE YOU?
IN NIGERIA. I SHOWED THE PHOTO, WHICH YOU SUPPLIED, TO SEVERAL AFRICANS. I WAS ABLE TO LOCATE THE INDIVIDUAL YOU MENTIONED VERY QUICKLY. HE LIVES ON A CATAMARAN. I'LL ELIMINATE HIM TONIGHT DURING HIS SLEEP.


PERFECT! THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO ACT DISCRETELY. MAKE SURE THEY NEVER FIND HIS BODY.

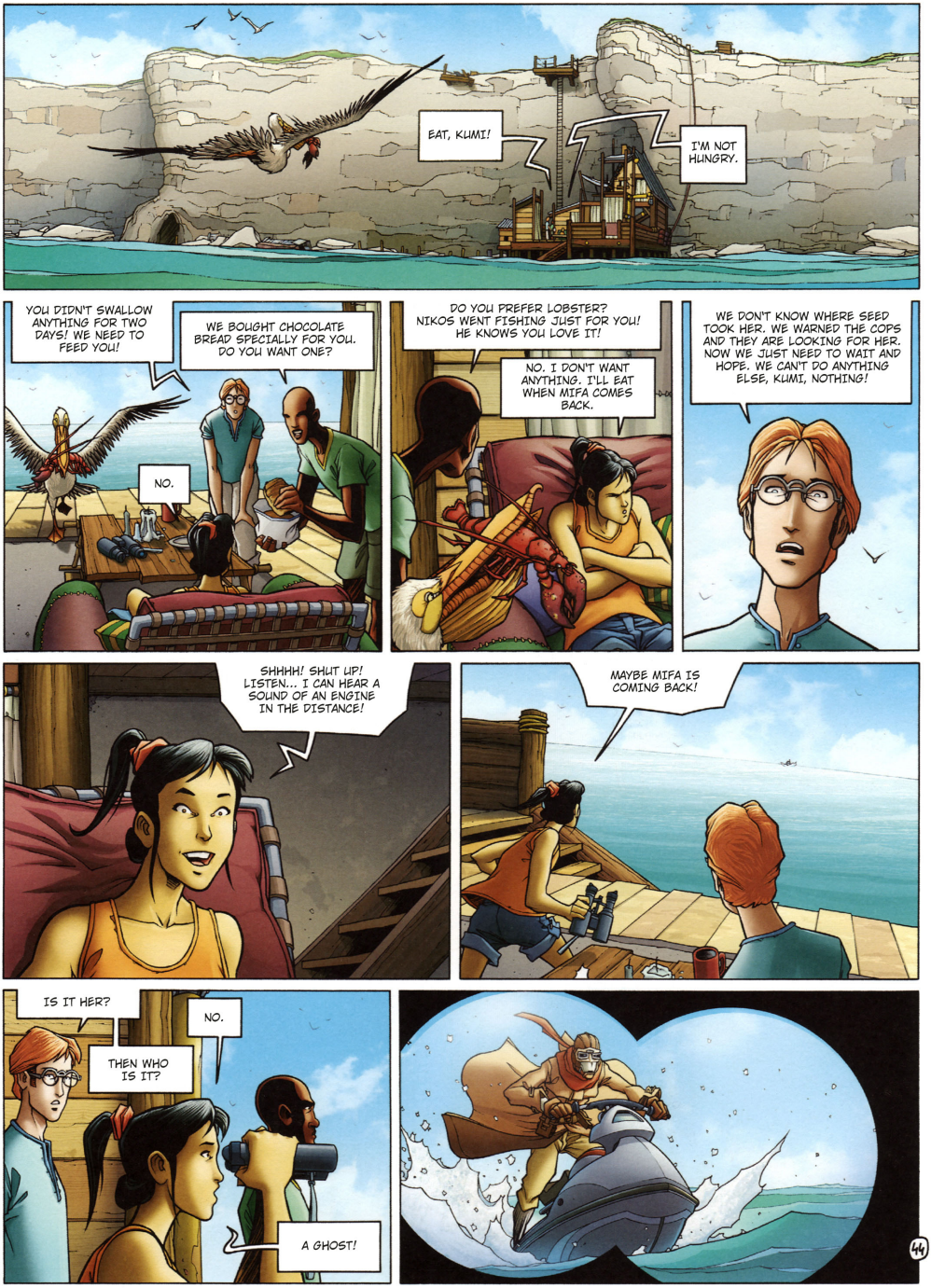
OK! COUNT ON ME.

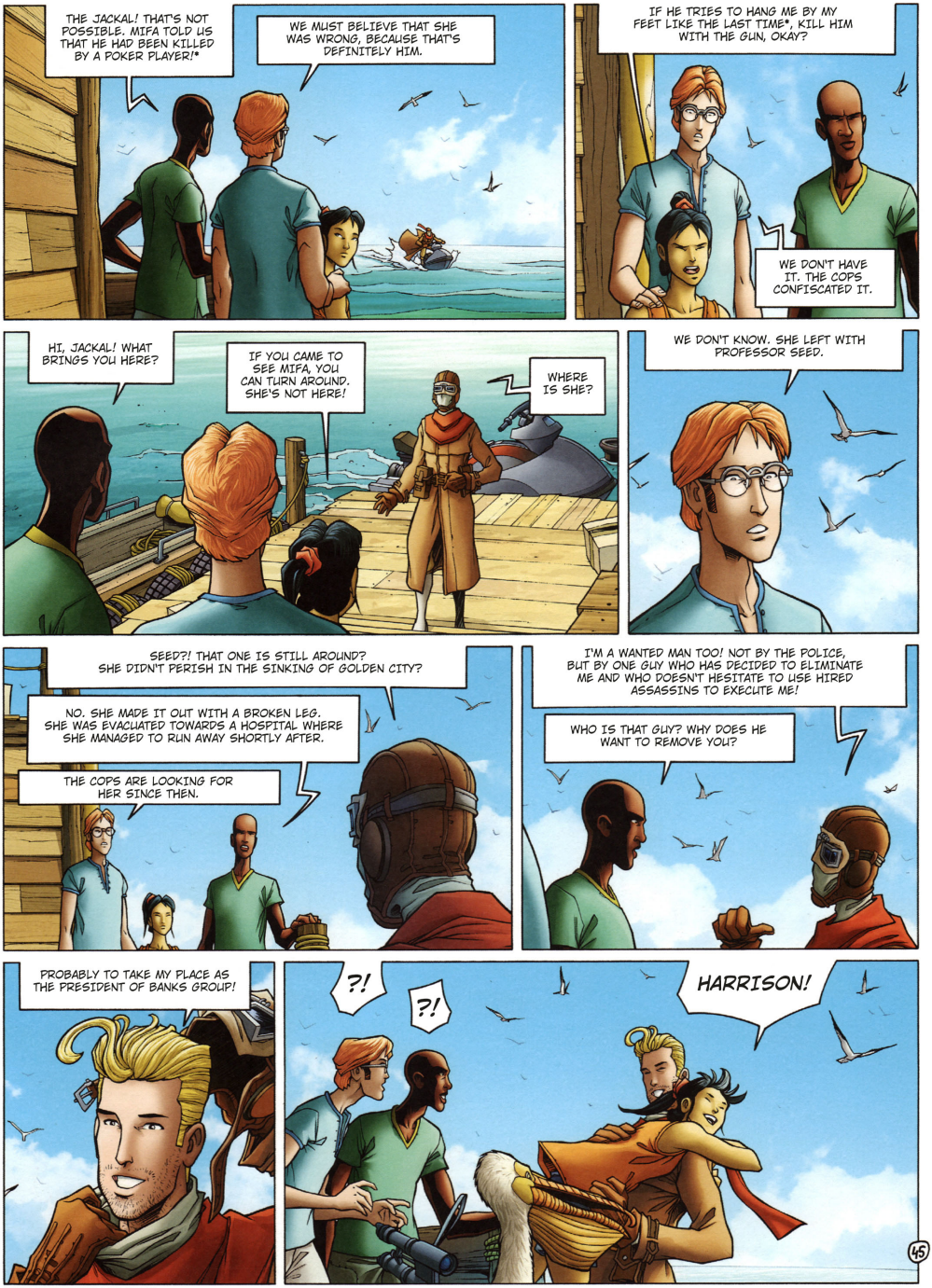
WOULD ONE OF YOU HAVE A DIVING SUIT TO SELL OR RENT?
40

WHY DID YOU GET UP? WHAT'S WRONG?
I'M GOING TO THROW UP! I HAVE SEASICKNESS BECAUSE OF THE STORM!
?!
HHAAAA!!!
41

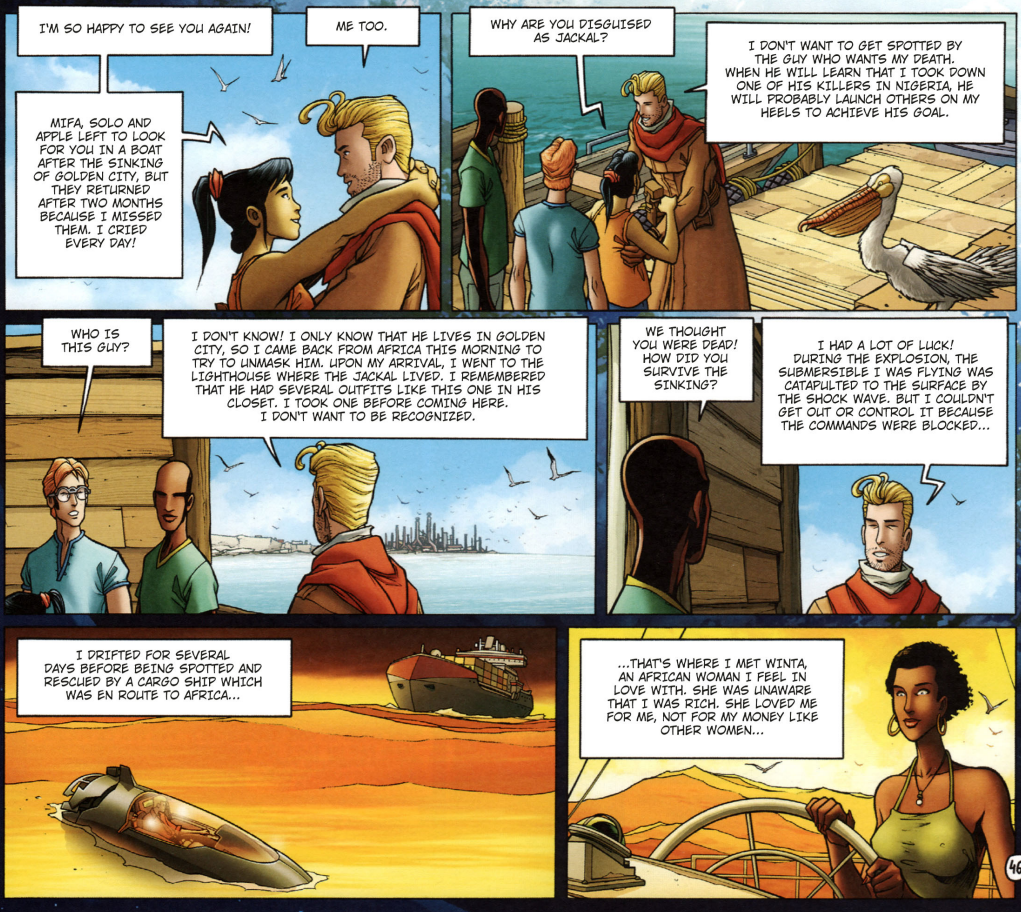
42

WHO ARE YOU? WHY DID YOU KILL HER, YOU BASTARD?
IT'S NOT HER... WHO I CAME TO KILL... IT'S YOU... SOMEONE PAID ME... TO TAKE YOU DOWN...
WHO?
I DON'T KNOW... HIS NAME... HE ALWAYS MAKES CONTACT OVER THE PHONE... I NEVER SAW HIM... I ONLY KNOW THAT HE LIVES IN... GOLDEN CITY...
ARRH...
WINTA...
43


EAT, KUMI!
I'M NOT HUNGRY.
YOU DIDN'T SWALLOW ANYTHING FOR TWO DAYS! WE NEED TO FEED YOU!
WE BOUGHT CHOCOLATE BREAD SPECIALLY FOR YOU. DO YOU WANT ONE?
NO.
DO YOU PREFER LOBSTER? NIKOS WENT FISHING JUST FOR YOU! HE KNOWS YOU LOVE IT!
NO. I DON'T WANT ANYTHING. I'LL EAT WHEN MIFA COMES BACK.
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE SEED TOOK HER. WE WARNED THE COPS AND THEY ARE LOOKING FOR HER. NOW WE JUST NEED TO WAIT AND HOPE. WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ELSE, KUMI, NOTHING!
SHHHH! SHUT UP! LISTEN... I CAN HEAR A SOUND OF AN ENGINE IN THE DISTANCE!
MAYBE MIFA IS COMING BACK!
IS IT HER?
NO.
THEN WHO IS IT?
A GHOST!
44


THE JACKAL! THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE. MIFA TOLD US THAT HE HAD BEEN KILLED BY A POKER PLAYER!*
WE MUST BELIEVE THAT SHE WAS WRONG, BECAUSE THAT'S DEFINITELY HIM.
IF HE TRIES TO HANG ME BY MY FEET LIKE THE LAST TIME*, KILL HIM WITH THE GUN, OKAY?
WE DON'T HAVE IT. THE COPS CONFISCATED IT.
HI, JACKAL! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
IF YOU CAME TO SEE MIFA, YOU CAN TURN AROUND. SHE'S NOT HERE!
WHERE IS SHE?
WE DON'T KNOW. SHE LEFT WITH PROFESSOR SEED.
SEED?! THAT ONE IS STILL AROUND? SHE DIDN'T PERISH IN THE SINKING OF GOLDEN CITY?
NO. SHE MADE IT OUT WITH A BROKEN LEG. SHE WAS EVACUATED TOWARDS A HOSPITAL WHERE SHE MANAGED TO RUN AWAY SHORTLY AFTER.
THE COPS ARE LOOKING FOR HER SINCE THEN.
I'M A WANTED MAN TOO! NOT BY THE POLICE, BUT BY ONE GUY WHO HAS DECIDED TO ELIMINATE ME AND WHO DOESN'T HESITATE TO USE HIRED ASSASSINS TO EXECUTE ME!
WHO IS THAT GUY? WHY DOES HE WANT TO REMOVE YOU?
PROBABLY TO TAKE MY PLACE AS THE PRESIDENT OF BANKS GROUP!
?!
?!
HARRISON!
45

*SEE PREVIOUS VOLUMES.


I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
ME TOO.
MIFA, SOLO AND APPLE LEFT TO LOOK FOR YOU IN A BOAT AFTER THE SINKING OF GOLDEN CITY, BUT THEY RETURNED AFTER TWO MONTHS BECAUSE I MISSED THEM. I CRIED EVERY DAY!
WHY ARE YOU DISGUISED AS JACKAL?
I DON'T WANT TO GET SPOTTED BY THE GUY WHO WANTS MY DEATH. WHEN HE WILL LEARN THAT I TOOK DOWN ONE OF HIS KILLERS IN NIGERIA, HE WILL PROBABLY LAUNCH OTHERS ON MY HEELS TO ACHIEVE HIS GOAL.
WHO IS THIS GUY?
I DON'T KNOW! I ONLY KNOW THAT HE LIVES IN GOLDEN CITY, SO I CAME BACK FROM AFRICA THIS MORNING TO TRY TO UNMASK HIM. UPON MY ARRIVAL, I WENT TO THE LIGHTHOUSE WHERE THE JACKAL LIVED. I REMEMBERED THAT HE HAD SEVERAL OUTFITS LIKE THIS ONE IN HIS CLOSET. I TOOK ONE BEFORE COMING HERE. I DON'T WANT TO BE RECOGNIZED.
WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD! HOW DID YOU SURVIVE THE SINKING?
I HAD A LOT OF LUCK! DURING THE EXPLOSION, THE SUBMERSIBLE I WAS FLYING WAS CATAPULTED TO THE SURFACE BY THE SHOCK WAVE. BUT I COULDN'T GET OUT OR CONTROL IT BECAUSE THE COMMANDS WERE BLOCKED...
I DRIFTED FOR SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE BEING SPOTTED AND RESCUED BY A CARGO SHIP WHICH WAS EN ROUTE TO AFRICA...
...THAT'S WHERE I MET WINTA, AN AFRICAN WOMAN I FEEL IN LOVE WITH. SHE WAS UNAWARE THAT I WAS RICH. SHE LOVED ME FOR ME, NOT FOR MY MONEY LIKE OTHER WOMEN...
46
...SO I DECIDED TO HIDE THE FACT THAT I WAS STILL ALIVE AND STAY CLOSE TO HER, FAR AWAY FROM GOLDEN CITY WHERE MONEY IS KING.

Golden City

Five year have passed since the sinking of Golden City. The survivors have decided to build a new city. Was it necessary to rebuild it identical or try to innovate? In the end, the second solution was chosen. While the new Golden City is inaugurated without the presence of Banks, who is still reported missing, a wind of revolt blows on Earth...

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